

Tories pledged to guard against end of Lords

The spectre of Mr Wedgwood Benn's instant socialism loomed over the Conservative conference at Brighton. It spurred delegates to urge the strengthening of the House of Lords against the possibility of abolition and it roused Mr Michael Heseltine to vow that the Tories "would live them back again."

Benn spectre looms over conference

From Fred Emery, Political Editor
Brighton

Conservative Cabinet ministers and constituency representatives yesterday largely inverted themselves from recent difficulties to devote the opening session of the conference to repelling the threat of instant socialism from Mr Wedgwood Benn and the Labour left.

In a typical peroration that might be expected to be heard in a standing position, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, vowed that the Tories would drive them back again, saying: "You will never impose your alien creeds on the people of this land."

Add backing rhetoric with policy on behalf of Mrs Margaret Thatcher personally and the Government, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and leader of the House of Commons, unreservedly embraced a conference motion urging that the House of Lords be strengthened against the possibility of abolition.

Late last night on the BBC television *Newswatch* programme, Mr St John-Stevas admitted that the Cabinet had never considered the matter, but he said it could not be considered by Parliament until the session begins in November 1981.

However, he maintained that the issue was now back at the centre of the political stage, even an "immediacy" by Mr Benn at Blackpool.

In a further, perhaps inadvertent, acceptance of Labour's policy challenge, Conservatives rallied to debate the "BBC" on Thursday in a motion that urged the Government to "take steps to ensure that the House of Lords is not abolished."

Mr St John-Stevas said the Government would proceed to such a referendum of the Lords after the composition of the "Upper House" should be strengthened and firmly established as a safeguard against arbitrary government.

Further changes were due in the Commons first, he said, in the coming Westminster session. And he cautioned that the "nostrum of instant abolition is not to be answered by the nostrum of instant reform."

He added: "We shall need to think long and carefully as to how we put the Government's proposals before the House, including consultation with the peers about the alternatives. Those were to retain the status quo or go to a fully elected or a mixed chamber with elected hereditary representatives. He favoured retaining the hereditary composition."

What was important was to devise some means "so that the second chamber cannot be swept away by an unrepresentative House of Commons but can stand as a long and considered body of the nation."

Thus, the pledge by Mr Benn to abolish the House of Lords worked a political wonder. Delivered but a week ago, it had been regarded as a "wild" idea, but now it has become a central issue in the Labour Party's campaign to win the next general election.

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Mr Norman St John-Stevas speaking at Brighton yesterday.

Mr Douglas Hogg, MP for Grantham, thought the Conservatives would win the next two elections. But for many of the rest it was clear that Mr Benn was a genuine out of a bottle. And they were running scared.

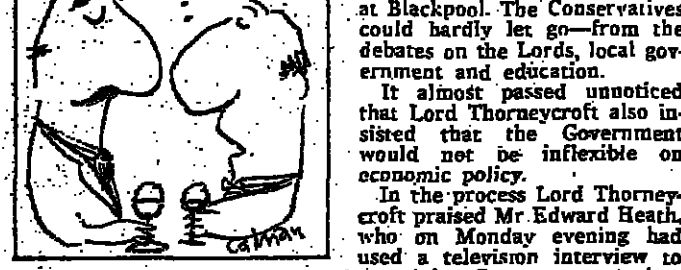
In rain had Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, urged them in a splendid rallying speech not to dwell on Labour at Blackpool. The Conservatives could hardly let go—from the debates on the Lords, local government and education.

It almost passed unnoticed that Lord Thorneycroft also insisted that the Government would not be inflexible on economic policy.

In the process Lord Thorneycroft praised Mr Edward Heath, who on Monday evening had used a television interview to warn the Government against being afraid to adjust its policies. Mr Heath had said the Government might lose support for all its policies if it persisted in trying to manage the economy through control of the money supply alone.

Mrs Thatcher is to attend today's debate on industrial relations but will not speak until the closing session on Friday.

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sham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, the issue has had low priority with Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet colleagues. If at all it has been spoken of as a matter for a second term of government.

Yet here were conference speakers almost falling over themselves to urge action, even wishing to have a new Upper House elected before the next general election.

Others were more confident.

Iraq makes ready for push to Abadan

From Robert Fisk, Khuzestan, Oct 7

The chief officer of the Yugoslav cargo ship *Krasica* leant over the afterdeck of his bullet-riddled ship and grinned broadly. "Both sides shelled us all the time for 15 days," he said. "We sat down below, played cards and drank beer. What else could we do?"

It must have been bad. Shells still hissed high over the waterfront and machine guns clumped away behind the warehouses. But the sailor did not even look eastwards along the quay where smoke poured from a burning ship.

The Iraqis now have troops and tanks along the Khuzestan waterfront and the *Krasica* is stretched along the quay where the Karun river. A Soviet-built T-62 tank stands about 400 yards short of the river on the quayside and every hour or so it belches a shell into the opposite bank where the Iranian army has its British-made Chieftain tanks.

Along the road from the international border, the Iraqi army is now bringing up transporters and heavy road rollers. The next Iraqi objective will be the crossing of the Karun river, opening up the road to Abadan.

They still have to capture the whole city of Khuzestan. Although the harbour is secure, the centre of the city is still a battleground.

All morning, shells burst over the city and the Karun river. The port is under fire from the direction of the Karun river. Iraqi officers blame this shooting on "a few fanatical" Iranian Revolutionary Guards although they have been saying that for the past nine days.

The Khuzestan waterfront is lined with foreign ships, comparatively undamaged and others half destroyed by fire. The Italian cargo ship *Capri*, for instance, has had its bridge, funnel and superstructure gutted by fire. The Chinese ship *Yung Chun* has been hit and is in flames.

Further east, where Iranian gunfire still rakes the quays, there are bigger ships burning fiercely.

The Iraqis must have entered the port suddenly because the docks are still strewn with empty crates and smouldering containers still clutched by the grappling of damaged cranes.

From some of the containers, Iraqi soldiers are liberating the contents, making off with a bizarre collection of Suzuki

Sharp fall in money supply raises hopes of cut in interest rate

By John Whitmore

Figures showing that the rate of monetary growth fell back sharply in September were hailed yesterday by Mr Angus Maude, Paymaster General and the Cabinet's chief spokesman, as a sign that the Government's policy was working. In the City the figures were taken as confirmation that Britain was on course for a cut in interest rates within the next few weeks.

Just how soon that cut will come remains unclear. While welcoming the Bank of England's indication that the money supply grew by 0.5 per cent in September, Mr Maude added that a fall in interest rates would have to wait until the Government was quite sure that the money supply was "firmly under control."

He said at the Conservative Party conference in Brighton: "The Government has always said that once the distortions of the money supply figures caused by the removal of the 'corset' controls had worked out of the statistics, the underlying improvement would become apparent."

The latest figures show that this forecast has already been met. The rate of inflation is falling and we hope the fall will continue. This is good news for everyone. The high levels of interest rates are making life very difficult for businessmen and home buyers alike.

"They have been necessary as a temporary measure. Once we are quite sure the money supply is firmly under control, we can all look forward to the prospect of some relief."

In the City the most encouraging aspect of the latest figures was seen as the marked decline in credit demand from the private sector. The main High Street banks put the underlying rate of increase in the banking system.

Muhammad Ali 'took drug before fight'

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Oct 7

Muhammad Ali took big doses of the drug thiorazine to lose weight for his title fight last Thursday, a spokesman for the former heavyweight champion said here today.

In just five months Ali's weight dropped dramatically from 265lb to his fighting weight of 217lb. But Ali was left weak and dehydrated so that only after four rounds with Larry Holmes in the hot Las Vegas ring he looked flat-footed and tired. He failed to answer the bell for his eighth round after a display of lacklustre boxing.

Muhammad Ali was admitted to the University of California medical centre hospital yesterday and has been undergoing medical tests. A hospital spokesman said his condition was "satisfactory." He would not elaborate on his treatment or symptoms.

Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad, said: "I think he lost too much weight too quickly. He was dried out and he did not sweat even though it was hot in the ring."

Doctors in Los Angeles say symptoms of an overdose of the drug—an extract of thyroid—can vary from severe muscular weakness to impairment of muscular functions.

Weight obsession? Dr Charles Lee Williams, Sr, speaking in a telephone interview from his Chicago office, said today: "I may have placed him (Ali) in jeopardy inadvertently in an attempt to correct a condition I felt had existed for some time—hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid). The drug speeds up metabolism and interferes with the body's ability to cool itself. He was supposed to drink a lot more water with it but he was obsessed with getting his weight down and felt water would prevent that."

"I went back to my corner and I felt just as tired," Ali said last Friday. "I could barely lift my arms. All the strength had gone from me. My reflexes... there was just nothing working. I wasn't sweating a drop."—UPI.

Full agreement on refunding British EEC contributions

The EEC foreign ministers reached an agreement in Brussels on the method and timetable for repaying British budget contributions, which Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, described as "very satisfactory."

Surprisingly the French did not insist on the right to veto any payment. Mr Carrington said that Mr Thatcher might have reached a *quid pro quo* agreement on farm prices with President Giscard d'Estaing, but Lord Carrington denied any link between the new agreement and the farm-price settlement.

BL makes fateful launch of the mini Metro

The mini Metro, on which British Leyland has staked its future, is now officially unveiled. The car's principal selling points, in a fiercely contested part of the market, will be very low fuel and servicing costs and the most efficient use of interior space in its class.

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Sunken treasure dispute

Japan and the Soviet Union are involved in a dispute over a fortune in sunken treasure, believed to be lying in the wreck of a Russian battle cruiser which was sunk during the Russo-Japanese war seventy-five years ago. While British and Japanese divers attempt to retrieve the treasure, the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo has renewed Moscow's claim to it.

Page 7

Murder victims' burnt

The bodies of six murder victims, including Mr George Brent and his son Terry, aged 10, were put on a pyre in a garden in a council estate in the north-east of London.

Four men deny charges of murder, and it was said that two of the men, after the first murder, discussed earning money by obtaining contracts to kill.

Page 2

TUC warning on unrest

TUC leaders are to draw up a warning of widespread social unrest over rising unemployment which they will present to the Prime Minister when they meet next week. However, some leaders are to propose another part of the TUC policy paper offering united cooperation if the Government agrees to joint consultations on policy.

Page 2

Priest's challenge

A Roman Catholic priest's recommendation that the Government should be withdrawn from 10 British companies with overseas interests has been accepted by the trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham's £2.5m investment fund. The companies are named in a statement as failing to meet the fund's ethical guidelines.

Page 6

Senior surgeon arrested

Mr Paul Vickers, aged 35, a senior surgeon in north-east England, was arrested by police who have been investigating the death of his wife 15 months ago. He is charged with the death of his wife.

Page 2

Turkey executions agreed

Turkey's ruling National Security Council has approved the death sentences imposed by martial law tribunals on four terrorists who killed seven people in two attacks on cafes in Ankara. If the executions are carried out, it will be the first in Turkey since 1972. Death sentences have been imposed on 22 others who killed 100 people at Kahramanmaraş in 1978.

Page 7

Mr Martens tries again

Mr Wilfried Martens, the caretaker Belgian Prime Minister, is planning a new coalition. The Government's resignation was accepted by King Baudouin after the failure of talks aimed at saving it. On Sunday, the King asked for a final attempt to avoid a split.

Page 6

Good-turn woman is swept to death

By Michael Horsnell

Torrential rain and winds of up to 86 miles an hour have left a trail of destruction across Britain in the past 24 hours and claimed the life of a woman, aged 50.

Mrs Betty Mayton, from Harpenden, Herts, who was on holiday in Morecambe, was swept to her death by heavy seas yesterday when she tried to collect a bottle of seawater as she stood on the promenade. The water was for a friend who believed it was useful in treating arthritis.

Lancashire police said: "It was almost high tide and as Mrs Mayton tried to fill the bottle she was swept away by a wave."

At Leeds and Bradford Airport, Department of Trade inspectors examined a Viscount aircraft which aquaplaned off the runway after a flight in heavy rain from London. The 48 passengers and four crew on board the British Midland aircraft escaped injury as it came to a halt partly on a grass verge and partly blocking the runway.

Battle near Kabul's Soviet HQ

By Kenneth Owen

Islamabad, Oct 7.—Western diplomats in Afghanistan have reported that there was a big gun battle at the weekend near the Dardaman-Palek, headquarters of the Soviet military command in south-west Kabul.

The reports, which reached Pakistan today, said the shooting on Friday night was the most serious incident in the Afghan-Soviet conflict since a series of violent student demonstrations in May and June.

The diplomats said the fighting broke out near the palace, about one mile from the Soviet Embassy.

The diplomats said witnesses reported that 14 insurgents were killed and 14 wounded in clashes with Soviet and Government troops.

The insurgents have apparently changed tactics since a series of large-scale assaults on military and Government posts to selective ambushes.—Reuter.

Electricity industry chairman to resign

By Kenneth Owen

Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of the Electricity Council, is resigning because of the Government's refusal to reorganize the electricity supply industry along the lines proposed four years ago by the Plowden Committee.

Sir Francis indicated yesterday that this refusal was likely to result in a inefficient long-term planning for the industry, and higher electricity prices for the consumer.

Announcing his decision to leave at the end of this year instead of continuing until his appointment expires on March 31, 1982, he said: "I have resigned because I think the industry is not properly organized."

Reorganization, including the formation of a unified Central Electricity Board to be headed by Sir Francis, was intended by the Labour Government in 1977-78 but the necessary legislation was not introduced.

At present, for England and Wales, the industry comprises the Central Electricity Generating Board and 12 area boards, all of which are statutory bodies. Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, said last July that the present Government did not intend to change this structure.

Sir Francis blamed both Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr Howell equally for the fact that the Plowden proposal for a new central body had not been implemented.

"The opportunity to legislate, and the commitment, rested with the previous government," he said. "They procrastinated."

Sir Francis then advised Mr Howell against his July decision but was overruled.

He said that when he moved from the chairmanship of the South of Scotland Electricity Board to the Electricity Council

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Husband charged over Paris blast

Paris, Oct 7.—The husband of a Dutch tourist who lost both her legs in Sunday's bomb blast in Paris was charged to night with attempted murder, police said. He is Robert van Pelt, aged 33, of Brunssum, his wife, Carmelia, aged 33, also received severe burns in the explosion.

Responsibility for the blast had been claimed by a man who said he spoke for a neo-Nazi movement. The police said they doubted this.—Reuter.

Paris Protest March, page 6

Polish leader admits divisions in party and says crisis is not yet over

Warsaw, Oct 7.—Mr Stanislaw Kanis, the Polish Communist Party leader, acknowledged in a speech published today by the official news media, that there were divisions within the party. He said the crisis in the country was not over.

Speaking at the closing session of the party's Central Committee, which ended yesterday, he also said the party would honour its commitments to Labour leaders over the formation of the Soviet bloc's first free trade unions. Millions of non-party supporters of socialism could feel "the bitter taste of the crisis that swept across Poland and which has not yet come to an end."

Hitting at unresolved conflicts within the party between hardliners and reformers, Mr Kanis said there were differences in approach, appraisals, and proposals during the committee meeting, which dismissed eight of its 200 members and two deputies and promised a campaign against corruption.

Mr Kanis said the new unions would have to conform to the socialist state. He made no reference to "anti-socialist forces," a phrase recently used to condemn tendencies in the new union movement.

Mr Kanis's promises of political renewal and reform of the Communist Party have been greeted with some cynicism.

Acknowledging this, the official news agency PAP, said in a commentary: "It is a matter of great importance that in a few years' time we do not look back at the recent plenum with the same bitterness and disappointment with which we now regard the plenum convened 10 years ago which was supposed to initiate the December renewal."

Mr Edward Gierek, the former party leader, whose regime was heavily criticized during the weekend meeting, came to power in December 1970.

PAP also reported that the former head of Polish radio and television, Mr Alaczej Szczepanski, and his aide, Mr Eugeniusz Patyk, both dismissed from the Central Committee, were dismissed today from their local Communist Party organization in Katowice.

The Polish Parliament today stripped Mr Szczepanski of his party immunity in preparation for his trial. PAP reported. He has been charged with illegally profiting from his post.

Soviet criticism: The Soviet trade union newspaper *Trud* said today that many workers in Gdansk were echoing slogans of trade unions in capitalist countries.

In its first report from a Polish independent trade union

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95-96	Deaths	16	Obituary	16			
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HOME NEWS

Bodies of six murder victims were dismembered and burnt in grate, prosecution alleges

By Richard Ford

The bodies of six murder victims were cut up and burnt on a grate in a council flat, Mr. David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday at the trial of four men accused of murder.

After successfully murdering the owner of a toy business, two of the men discussed earning money by obtaining contracts to kill people. Mr. George Brett, a haulage contractor, and his son Terry, aged 10, who disappeared almost six years ago.

A butcher's mincing machine was bought for £25 to dispose of the body of the first victim, but it did not work properly. Eventually the bodies of all the victims were dismembered, burnt in a grate, and then the ashes and bones were dumped.

He warned the jury: "The details of this case are extremely unpleasant. It will be necessary for you to steel yourself to listen to descriptions which are really horrible."

Between 1974 and 1978 six people had disappeared and had never been found alive or the bodies discovered. The details had come to light when a man called John Childs was arrested on suspicion of a robbery in Hertfordshire last year. He had confessed to being involved in the disappearance of all six.

He pleaded guilty last December to six counts of murder and was serving life imprisonment. "It is the case for the Crown that Childs was not concerned alone in these murders, but in every one of them he was involved with MacKenney, and in some of them concerned with others."

The story began when Mr. Childs was released from prison in 1972 and went to work for Mr. Pinfield, who was manufacturing lifejackets, designed by Mr. MacKenney, in a church hall at Dagenham. The three had serious discussions about killing people for money, nothing came of it at that time.

Terrance "Teddy Bear" Eve, aged 35, made teddy bears and soft toys on the balcony of the hall being used by Mr. Pinfield and Mr. MacKenney. Mr. Tudor Price said that Mr. Pinfield wanted to turn the hall into a business. Various ideas of getting rid of him were discussed until eventually it was decided he would be killed by Mr. MacKenney and Mr. Childs at the church hall with Mr. Pinfield absent, because as he would inherit the business, he needed an alibi.

It was decided to put the body through a butcher's mincing machine installed in Mr. Childs's flat. Mr. Childs would say that Mr. Eve went to the hall and was hit many times on the head with a piece of piping, but when it became difficult to kill him, Mr. Childs joined in using a hammer, and Mr.

The accused and the charges are: Henry MacKenney, aged 48, of Baydon Road, Dagenham, Essex, who is charged with the murders of Terence Eve, 35, of George Brett and his son Terry, aged 10, on January 4, 1978, of Robert Winston Brown between November 1 and December 31, 1978, of Frederick Sherwood between July 31 and August 3, 1978, and of the small Andrews and wife, Gwendoline, who is charged with the murder of George Brett; and Paul Morton-Thurle, aged 34, a civil engineer, of Stoddards Road, Stoddards, Canterbury, who is charged with the murder of Frederick Sherwood.

The four men pleaded not guilty to all the charges. MacKenney then strangled him with a rope. The body was wrapped in a tarpaulin and the small Andrews and wife, Gwendoline, who also provided them with a Steungun to kill George Brett. Mr. Thompson had a grudge against Mr. Brett because he had given evidence against him in a court case after the two men had been hit by a car.

Mr. Childs would say that after that killing, the three of them discussed obtaining contracts to kill. For their next murder they were paid £1,800 by Leonard and Thompson, who also provided them with a Steungun to kill George Brett. Mr. Thompson had a grudge against Mr. Brett because he had given evidence against him in a court case after the two men had been hit by a car.

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shot. The bodies were dismembered with a saw and butcher's knife and slowly burnt before the ashes were dumped.

The next victim was to be Robert Brown, an escapee from Chelmsford Prison, who was living on a camp bed at the hall and who had seen all the blood after the murder of Mr. Eve.

Mr. Childs's account was that Mr. MacKenney shot Mr. Brown twice in the back of the head, but the shots did not kill him. He was attacked with an axe and stabbed before eventually being impaled on the floor with a sword.

Mr. Morton-Thurle hired Mr. Childs and Mr. MacKenney to kill Frederick Sherwood because he owed Mr. Sherwood money and was finding it difficult to repay. Mr. Childs and Mr. MacKenney agreed to kill Mr. Sherwood for £4,000, with payment being made by one instalment of £1,500 and then fortnightly instalments of £500.

After learning that Mr. Sherwood was trying to sell his car, the plan was to lure him to Mr. MacKenney's home on the pretext that Mr. Childs was going to purchase the vehicle. Mr. Childs felled Mr. Sherwood with a 21lb hammer, and then Mr. MacKenney shot him.

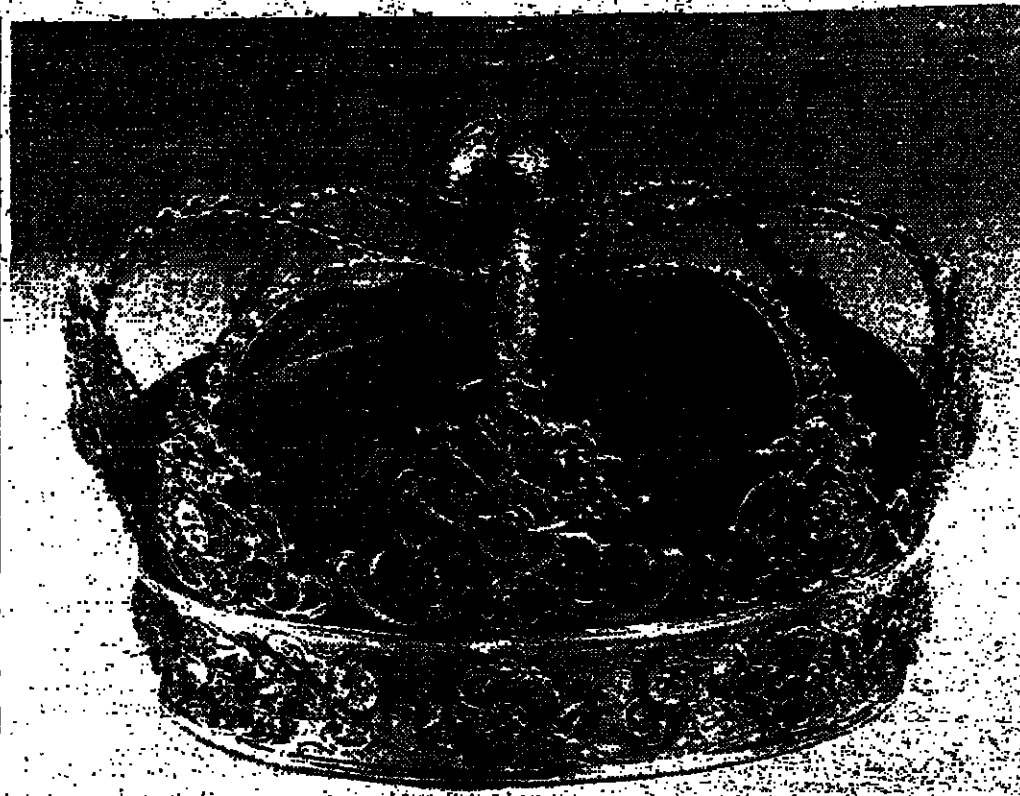
The final victim was murdered for a different motive. Mr. MacKenney wanted Ronald Andrews's wife, Gwendoline, with whom he was having an affair. Mr. MacKenney persuaded Mr. Andrews that he should engage a private detective to check on his wife, and then Mr. Childs went to the flat in Poplar to meet Mr. Childs, posing as the detective.

"MacKenney shot Andrews through the head, and afterwards he said he was very sorry to have to kill his friend," Mr. Childs would say that Mr. MacKenney then drove Mr. Andrews's Lincoln Continental car to Wisbech and drove it into the hall before coming back to London. Again, the body was dismembered and burnt.

Mr. Tudor Price said it would be alleged that last year, when Mr. MacKenney was shown by police and that while he was staying in somebody's house, he spoke of his love for Mrs. Gwendoline Andrews and how badly her husband had treated her. But he had said he did not have killed Ronnie and that since he had done it he had been filling Mrs. Andrews with drink to stop her talking about him.

Ending his opening address, Mr. Tudor Price said that an arsenal of weapons that belonged to the group was found in a house in Woodford Green, Essex, after Mr. Childs was arrested, and that in the house there were also experts had found orange curtains with human blood on them, a roll of polythene with human blood and human hair on it.

The trial continues.



The burial crown of Queen Kristina the Elder of Sweden to be shown in an exhibition of court jewels at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Laggers' delegates back strike call

By Our Labour Reporter

Laggers' representatives yesterday decided to back a national strike as three unions which have defied the TUC formula for a settlement of the Isle of Grain dispute came a stage closer to suspension from the TUC.

About 30 delegates representing 6,000 laggers on big construction sites throughout Britain voted to recommend that their union, the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU), calls an official strike aimed at safeguarding their hold on insulation work in the industry.

In the Isle of Grain dispute, subcontractors have taken over from GMWU members. The union claims attempts have been made to keep it out of lagging work of the petrochemical sites at Pembroke and Milford Haven.

The laggers yesterday called for an emergency meeting of the GMWU executive to discuss picketing at the sites in south-west Wales official. Five men were arrested on Monday when 500 tried to bar the entrance to the Texaco site at Pembroke.

The unions facing suspension, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) construction and engineering sections, and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, yesterday decided to ask Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, to convene a meeting of all parties involved in a final attempt to resolve the Isle of Grain dispute without a TUC split.

But they also agreed to call their executives together on

October 28, two days before the TUC General Council is to decide on endorsing the suspension. That meeting is assumed to be for making contingency plans in case of suspension.

Mr. Terence Duffy, the AUEW's president, said after yesterday's meeting between his executive and Mr. Frank Chapple, general secretary of the electrical union, and Mr. John Baldwin, general secretary of the AUEW construction section: "We are still convinced the TUC formula can not work and at present it looks as if the decision to suspend will be entered."

The TUC General Council had agreed to suspend the three unions unless they accepted the formula by next Friday and no move towards a strike will be made before then.

Mr. Baldwin said that a reply from Mr. Murray to a request for a round-table meeting to reach a settlement had been "not helpful".

Mr. David Bassett, general secretary of the GMWU, has been ousted by his executive with the authority to take any action he deems appropriate in the dispute, but would be unlikely to call a strike without first consulting national and other officers.

Mr. Frank Corran, GMWU national officer, responsible at present for the laggers, was reminded yesterday that a similar strike had been threatened before but not implemented. He pointed out that there was no little room for the TUC to intervene further, as it had exhausted its procedures over the Isle of Grain.

Strike threat to bread production

By Donald MacIntyre

Bread production could be disrupted from next week after a decision by flour mill engineers to strike unless a 15 per cent pay offer is improved in talks today.

Meetings among maintenance craftsmen at flour mills throughout the country have voted by four to one to back their union leaders and reject an offer accepted by 4,000 process workers.

Announcing that yesterday, Mr. Gavin Laird, an executive member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which represents 500 of the 700 men involved, said a strike would begin on Monday unless the offer was improved this afternoon.

The immediate impact of a national strike by flour mill craftsmen, believed to be the first in the industry, is uncertain, since a small minority of mills have settled outside national negotiations.

Mr. Laird said last night that he expected a rapid effect on production of bread, cakes, biscuits and pet foods if the strike went ahead.

Among the 40 companies represented by the Incorporated National Association of British Flour Millers Limited are the three largest: Rank Hovis McDougall, Associated British Foods and Dalgety-Spiller.

The association declined yesterday to comment in advance of this afternoon's talks, beyond suggesting that they were taking place "at the union's request".

Mr. Laird explained that the union had recommended its meetings to reject the offer but insisted that its negotiators to make one last attempt to get the offer improved.

The association, which originally offered between 12 and 13 per cent, later withdrew an accompanying offer of enhanced holiday pay when it improved the pay offer to 15 per cent on the basic rate of just over £68 per week.

The unions have been seeking, along with increases of more than 20 per cent, moves to a shorter working week and holiday pay reflecting what they say are the average earnings for a 40-hour week of about £94.

TUC plans warning over unemployment

By Paul Roudledge

TUC leaders will today draw up a warning of widespread social unrest over rising unemployment to take to Mrs. Margaret Thatcher when they meet her for talks at 19 Downing Street next week.

The threat is in a confidential policy paper being discussed by the TUC Economic Committee, which offers trade union cooperation with the Government if ministers agree to joint consultations with the unions on social and economic policy.

But the idea of such collaboration will be opposed by some union leaders. "The TUC would be handing the Cabinet's hands by offering any cooperation with the Thatcher administration," they argue.

The contribution of the agreement as presented to unions for their approval is a warning of widespread social and economic indicators makes the case for alternative economic policies. The key issue is whether the Government accepts that such policies are based on cooperation, not consultation.

The TUC has confirmed its willingness to discuss with Government on the basis of a

wide-ranging, agreed agenda which contains any issue raised, but there has been no response from the Government.

That conclusion is a reaction to an indirect route from the main body of the policy which is deeply critical of Government economic policy by accusing the Government of breaching the 1945 party pledge to achieve employment in the UK.

It goes on to demand that the Government's estimate for unemployment which the TUC believes is in excess of 2.5 million, should be reduced to 1.5 million by the end of the year.

Every job lost by state spending is matched another lost in the sector, the TUC says.

Unions seek to clarify 'News' agreement

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

Senior executives of Associated Newspapers and Express Newspapers will today attempt to clarify the details of the agreement between the two groups on the closure of the London Evening News are being kept secret.

A meeting with officials of the 11 unions with members at the newspaper will be held tonight when the group's executives will be asked to clarify aspects of the deal under which the new Evening Standard will be launched next month.

Talks took place yesterday between the two groups on who should be the editor of the new paper, with Associated Newspapers pressing the case for Mr. Louis Kirby, editor of the Evening News. Other possible contenders are understood to be Mr. Jeremy Deedes, assistant editor of the Evening Standard, and Mr. Robbie Addison.

a senior editorial exec the Daily Star.

It is thought that announcement on the app is imminent, but if it does get the job it is a criticism with the Evening Standard staff. Journalists have said they would like to work with him.

General secretaries of printing unions are due Lord Matthews, chair of the National Union of Journalists, and the future of the Star. Lord Matthews the unions that savings would have to be made the newspaper was to printing in London.

Unions fear that if in London is stopped, the eventual closure of the newspaper, which would mean the loss of 1,800 jobs, will not be prepared to accept a new newspaper in view of the closure of the Evening Standard, and Mr. Robbie Addison.

Dockers call off strike: jobs for seven are found

By Our Labour Staff

The strike by 950 dockers and fish porters, which paralysed Grimsby and Immingham docks, was called off last night after the employers agreed to find new jobs for the porters.

A settlement was reached soon after 1,800 dockers at Hull decided to strike immediately in sympathy with the Grimsby men.

The seven men had been refused jobs by the Grimsby Labour Company, which they had been allocated by the

local dock labour board they had been declared, to requirements by an handling company in

Under the settlement men will be given to commercial section of which has been accepted by local and General Worker officials who called to work at midnight docks this morning.

Hull dockers were to reverse their strike after news of the

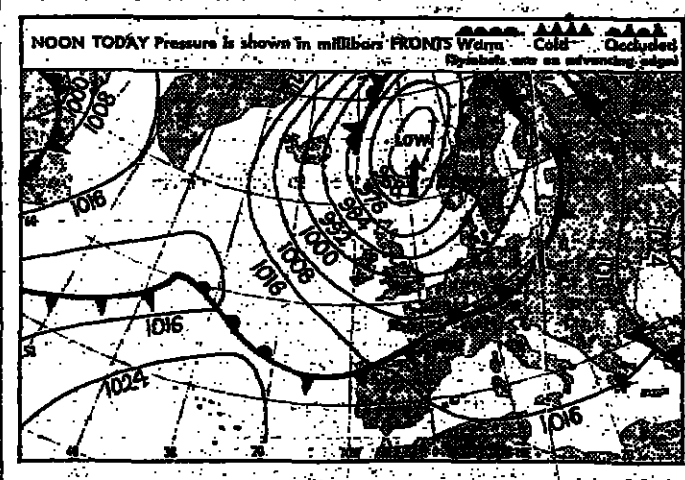
School fire inquiry

Police suspect arson after a fire caused damage estimated at £20,000 to Bishop Kirk Middle School, Oxford, yesterday.

Correction

The Geoffrey Knight report on September 17 took General Hospital Road, Oxford, as not at Brookwood Road.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY	Pressure is shown in millibars	FRONTS	WIND	TEMP	SEA
Sun rises 7.13 am					
Sun sets 6.22 pm					
Moon rises 6.12 am					
Moon sets 6.34 pm					
New Moon: Tomorrow					
Lighting up: 6.52 pm to 6.45 am					
High water: London Bridge, 2.21 am, 7.2m; 2.39 pm, 7.1m; Avebury, 1.54 am, 12.7m; 8.03 pm, 12.8m					
Low: Dover, 11.41 am, 6.5m; 1.1m; Liverpool, 11.52 am, 8.3m; 1.1m; 3.30am, 1m = 3.28ft					
A vigorous depression will remain slow-moving to N of Scot					
Forecast for 6 am to midnight:					
London, SE, central S, E, Eng, East Anglia, Midlands: Sunny intervals, cloud, and showers developing, perhaps heavy; wind W to SW, fresh to strong; max temp 12° to 13°C (54° to 55°F).					
Channel Islands, SW England, Wales, South or sunnier intervals, cloud and showers developing, some heavy with thunder possible; wind W to NW, strong; max temp 12° to 13°C (52° to 55°F).					
WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY: MONDAY: cloud; rain; haze; r. rain; s. sun; sh. showers					

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Maternity pay plan seen as attack on women's rights

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Government proposals to combine maternity benefits were condemned by the General and Municipal Workers' Union yesterday as "a totally unacceptable" further erosion of working women's rights.

Mrs. Turner, the union's equal rights officer, said that women would fight the proposals.

Mrs. Turner was commenting on proposals, due to go to Cabinet ministers soon, to change existing maternity arrangements on similar lines to the Government's proposals to make employers responsible for paying sickness benefit for the first eight weeks.

As disclosed in *The Times* on Monday, the two options being discussed would either make employers totally responsible for maternity pay, abolishing the national insurance maternity allowance, or make the state solely responsible by paying higher maternity allowance.

The new options, which are seen by civil servants as a logical extension of the proposed changes to national insurance sickness benefit, are expected

to be published for consultation before the end of the year.

If approved, they would be included in Bill early next year for implementation in 1982.

Mrs. Turner said yesterday that the Government had made it more difficult for women to return to work after having a baby, because of changes to maternity rights in the Employment Act.

The new proposals would discriminate either against women or dependants and those entitled to maternity pay, or those women who did not qualify for state benefits.

"I suppose we should have expected the proposals to be discriminatory," Mrs. Turner said. "It is women who are bearing the brunt of this Government's callous economic policies. It is women who will lose their rights through this latest 'economy' measure. It is women who will fight back against it, through the trade unions which represent them."

The authority was criticized earlier this year because its code has been voluntarily accepted, and that under its code dealing with price comparisons when complicated new regulations concerning bargain offers became law.

In its editorial the authority repeats that any advertisement which breaks the law breaches their code, but it adds that it is for the courts to judge whether the law has been broken.

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Death case: police arrest top surgeon

Miss Pamela Collison

Miss Pamela Collison, taken by police to Newcastle.

Mr. Paul Vickers, aged 45, a senior surgeon, was arrested yesterday by police investigating the death of his wife 15 months ago.

Mr. Vickers is understood to have met Northumbria police officers at an address in the south of England and to have later accompanied them to Newcastle upon Tyne.

Earlier, Miss Collison, 33, a political researcher, who is a friend of Mr. Vickers, was also arrested. She was also taken to Newcastle.

Both arrests were made on warrants issued on Monday by Gateshead magistrates, after advice to Northumbria police by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr. Vickers is a member of the central ethical committee of the British Medical Association and a former member of the General Medical Council.

He lives at Gosforth, Newcastle, and has been on leave from his post with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, where he is in charge of the accident department.

Mrs. Margaret Vickers, his wife, died in hospital, aged 44, in June last year. Her death was certified as being from natural causes.

Miss Collison, who lives at Margaret Road, Barnet, North London, was once a personal assistant to Mr. Michael Heseltine, the present Secretary of State for the Environment.

Three patients who were admitted to hospital in Aldridge, near Glasgow, suspected of having legionnaires' disease, have been cleared after tests proved negative.

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CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

Transport policy legislation to include reform of drink-driving law and lorry excise duty

Legislation is to be introduced to change five areas of transport policy, Mr Norman Fowler (Minister of Transport) announced when winding up the transport debate.

Those changes will be: improved training for motorcyclists; reform of the drink and driving law without the introduction of random breath tests; reform of the existing procedure for traffic offences and its replacement by a fairer points system; reform of the vehicle excise duty for heavy lorries so that they pay their full truck costs; and a Bill to allow for private investment in the British Transport Docks Board and subsidiary companies of British Rail.

Mr Roger Moore (MP for Faversham) opened the debate by moving a motion congratulating the Government on the steps it had taken to increase the freedom and enterprise of the transport system and urging the Government to continue with a programme that encouraged private investment in public transport and which freed the motorist from unnecessary restrictions.

He said he made no apology for moving a congratulatory motion

because transport had been a major area of Conservative Government achievement. Yesterday had seen the only significant reform of road passenger transport since the 1930s. The Transport Act had opened up a new era of competition on road and rail.

"When did we last see passengers' fares actually coming down?" he asked.

Sir Freddie Lake, who had introduced a motion for fresh air into air travel and gave the consumer a fair deal. They wanted more freedom for the consumer, and the shadow Minister of Transport, who last week said Labour would renationalize private road hauliers.

No one would claim that the measures so far taken would solve the transport problems in the rural areas, but then no one had a miracle cure for all the problems

of public transport in the age of the car and heavy lorry.

Mr John Moorhouse (MEP for London, South) said that in the European Parliament's transport committee they were trying to develop a monopoly system to that being developed by the British Government. Air transport was a vital element and air fares in Europe were kept artificially high. British MEPs had been telling their continental partners that they could not accept that. The time had come to bring down air fares significantly. People like Sir Freddie should be given the opportunity to expand in Europe but they were up against the cartel of the European airlines.

Their colleagues on the continent were not keen to offer that situation, but under the Treaty of Rome the monopoly would have to be ended and he and other Conservative MEPs were working to that end.

Mr John Walker (West Derbyshire) said that not long ago people were being urged to save oil. One form of transport could be powered by home-produced fuel oil or nuclear power. It was the electric train. Far too

little was being spent on new equipment for the railways. He favoured competition but it had to be fair. The road haulage industry had the private motorist but the heavy lorry operator did not pay a fair proportion for road maintenance.

Mr Angela Clark (Isle of Wight) was worried that with the proposed sale of Sealink the service to the Isle of Wight from the mainland would deteriorate. Any would-be buyer should be required to undertake to maintain the present service.

Mr Tony Bays (Ugimister) said the basic problem to be faced was to decide face levels and the amount of capital investment that could be afforded in public transport systems.

It was clear that the level of capital investment in London Transport had not been sufficient and that fares should be increased accordingly.

What really matters in relation to motorists and to motorway transport is the level of capital investment in our roads. We spend too much time getting snarled in traffic jams and the general road system we have is insufficient.

One element in maintaining good relations between the police and the public was by keeping the law up to date and fair, and that included traffic laws. The Secretary (Mr William Whitelaw) and himself were conducting a study of the existing traffic offences but it was already clear that the existing system was a blunt instrument that should be replaced by legislation to replace existing laws by the much fairer points system.

The also saw no justification for the heaviest lorry tolls on roads in Britain not paying their full truck cost. Accordingly, the Government intended by legislation at the earliest opportunity to reform the vehicle excise duty system for heavy lorries.

Among other measures was intended to be the abolition of the National Ports Council and the switching of the heavy goods vehicle testing system to the private sector. Safety standards would be maintained.

The Government had already legislated to bring private investment into the National Freight Corporation and it intended to introduce legislation to enable private investment in the British Railways Board and its subsidiary companies of British Rail, Nationalization had not benefited those companies.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Government also intended to act to deal with the tragic toll of road accident victims and environmental issues like the impact of the heavy lorry.

On road casualties, he was most concerned about the number of deaths and injuries among the young. Nowhere were they more evident than among motor cycle riders. Last year more than 1,000 motor cyclists were killed and further 60,000 injured. Of those, half were under the age of 20. That was a disaster. The Government intended to carry out a study when more than 80 per cent went onto the roads for the first time without any training.

New restrictions were necessary but in particular, the Government intended to tackle the question of training. It intended to make the real terms of the legislation upon it.

At the same time it intended to take action to tackle the increasing toll from drink driving, the largest single cause of road accidents. The Government had consulted the police and many organisations on the way the law should be reformed.

"We do not believe," he said, "that it is necessary to introduce random breath tests. We ever believe it is necessary and right to eliminate the technical defences which have allowed the drink driver to get away and to introduce other measures to enable the police to enforce the law more surely. The Government intended to take the earliest opportunity to legislate on that.

Mr Fowler promises action to cut road deaths

Mr Fowler said the debate had been very realistic, which was in stark contrast to the other two party conferences. The Liberal Party had adopted a transport policy that so captured the enthusiasm of Mr David Penhaligon, the speaker on the subject, that he had said he would resign if every call upon to support it. The Labour Party had adopted such a policy that it was threatening to resign rather than support it.

The challenge for the Government was to set out to the public the new course of action it was taking.

"Central to our approach is that it is the customer who comes first and not the interest group pleading a special case. Central to our approach is our belief that the public interest is best served by a minimum of government intervention in the market place and a maximum amount of free competition. Central to our approach is a determination to cut out all unnecessary restrictions and controls.

"We are determined to increase competition to the maximum extent possible to introduce private investment and control wherever possible. That would benefit customers and those working in the industries themselves.

In its first 18 months the Government has introduced private enterprise and cut back the public sector.

Under the Transport Act, 1980, they had carried out the most com-

prehensive reform of the bus licensing laws for half a century. There was competition, new services and prices had come down. The Liberal Party had adopted a transport policy that so captured the enthusiasm of Mr David Penhaligon, the speaker on the subject, that he had said he would resign if every call upon to support it. The Labour Party had adopted such a policy that it was threatening to resign rather than support it.

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The biggest cuts in road investment took place under the Labour Government, while the Conservative Government had maintained rail investment at the level it had been taking for years. The Government was spending £1,000 million on the roads and it had given the railways board the flexibility in financing that it had asked for.

In return, the industry was responsible for achieving the maximum in efficiency and productivity. All passenger transport operators should be required to pick up the Bill for excessive wage settlements.

This government is not prepared to take such settlements," he declared.

The Government also intended to act to deal with the tragic toll of road accident victims and environmental issues like the impact of the heavy lorry.

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Proposals for entrenching House of Lords to be considered urgently with peers

Warning that the nostrum of instant abolition of the House of Lords was not to be answered by the peerage of instant reform, Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, said that the House of Lords was not to be abolished. He said that the House of Lords was not to be abolished. He said that the House of Lords was not to be abolished.

There were a number of options for reform. The Lords could reflect the composition of the Commons but then it could become a rubber stamp. Mr Fowler said that the House of Lords was not to be abolished. He said that the House of Lords was not to be abolished. He said that the House of Lords was not to be abolished.

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Chairman's obituary 'premature'

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Opening day speakers: Lord Thorpecroft (top), Mr Michael Heseltine (centre) and Mr Norman Fowler.

'Breath machine' will replace blood or urine tests for drivers

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Outlining the Government's plan to legislate on drunken driving, Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, said he had rejected the advice of the police and other organisations that there should be random tests.

One of the technical defences some motorists had used to escape penalties had been that the breathalyzer had not been properly inflated.

On the advice of medical experts, Mr Fowler is going to adopt the 'breath machine' test. People suspected of driving under the influence of drink will undergo the present quick roadside test. The machine will be used in police stations where they will be tested by the machine.

The machine will enable the police to read the alcohol content of the blood within minutes and will give a positive result in seconds. It will be used to make blood tests.

In a consultation paper published last week, Mr Fowler said it was proposed that the machine should be used to replace the blood test. The machine has been evaluated by Home Office experts who have reported that it would be a simpler, quicker, cheaper and less intrusive than the present system.

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increased by only 20 p.p.m. Training of motor cyclists was included in the Transport Act. It now being prepared that there will be new test for learner drivers. The test will be a two-part test. One dealing with the handling of the car and the other with the use of regulations where the driver knows and obeys the law to satisfy the test.

Mr Fowler said the Government's plans for private investment in motor transport were a way of seeking solutions to road problems.

The subsidiary company British Rail have been an investment over the years. It was very recently have low, if not lost, in terms of investment. The Government is now looking at the possibility of a new company to take over the motor transport. It is not a matter of the taxpayer's money. It is a matter of the taxpayer's money. It is a matter of the taxpayer's money.

On the decision not to reduce random breath tests, Mr Fowler said that the machine would be used to replace the blood test. The machine has been evaluated by Home Office experts who have reported that it would be a simpler, quicker, cheaper and less intrusive than the present system.

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Dissidents do not last long on the breakfast menu

By Hugh Noyes

There is one thing to make Conservative Party managers choke on their cornflakes, it is the discovery that some of the party's most famous members are still in their pyjamas and/or night-dresses.

Lord Hailsham, a steady breed, not great to political night-mares, even Mr. Wedgwood Benn. Yet the night that met them at the National Hotel in London yesterday morning must have left them quivering.

Firmly attached to the crowd, Lord Hailsham, the chairman of the party, was seen to be in the company of the party's most famous members. He was seen to be in the company of the party's most famous members. He was seen to be in the company of the party's most famous members.

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Next rate support grant will assume pay curbs

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Parent's right to pay for education defended

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Union official tries to check the tide

By Our Political Editor

At what Conservative Trade Unions believed to be the first time a leading union official addressed a Conservative conference fringe meeting, Mr George Janeway, assistant secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, said that the tide of public opinion was moving in favour of the Government.

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Paisley d for Ulster move der

By Our Political Correspondent

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HOME NEWS

ine' will Rampton inquiry is not
or likely to urge
drivers closure of hospital

Lucy Hodges
The inquiry into the running of Rampton special hospital, in Leicestershire, set up last week, will not urge a closure of the hospital, it is expected to recommend the appointment of a medical director.
The inquiry's report is with the Health Services Commission, which is expected to publish it in the next few weeks. It is believed that the inquiry will not recommend the closure of the hospital for mentally abnormal offenders, as many observers suspected. The inquiry has been set up to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of a patient, and the inquiry is expected to recommend the appointment of a medical director to oversee the hospital's medical services.
The inquiry is being led by a committee of three, including a member of the Health Services Commission, a representative of the hospital, and a representative of the public. The inquiry is expected to take place over the next few weeks, and its findings will be published in a report to the Health Services Commission.

BL unveils
'make
or break'
MetroBy Peter Weymark
Morning Correspondent

The Austin mini Metro, the car that could decide the future of British Leyland, is officially unveiled today after months of speculation. It goes on sale next Tuesday.

BL has invested £275m in the Metro project, making it clear that the success of the car is vital to the company's survival. If the Metro fails, it could mean the end of Austin Morris, which employs most of the workforce.

The Metro, a name chosen by the workforce, will compete in the tough small hatchback sector against established European and Japanese models like the Ford Fiesta, Volkswagen Polo, Fiat 127, Renault 5, Honda Civic and Toyota Starlet.

BL expects to sell 75,000 Metros a year in Britain at first, taking about 5 per cent of the new car market, and exports to the Continent will start in the spring. The car does not replace the Mini, which remains in production after 21 years.

The company is claiming three clear advantages for the Metro over its main rivals: outstanding fuel consumption, the most effective use of interior space, and the lowest servicing costs in its class.

There are five models, with a choice of 998 cc and 1275 cc engines. The cheapest car is the one-litre at £3,095; the HLE high compression economy version costs £3,695 and the top



The Metro: In its favour, lowest fuel and servicing costs in its class and most effective use of interior space.

model is the 1.3 litre HLE at £4,295.

Government figures indicate the HLE Metro is the most economical car available in Britain, returning 41.5 miles per gallon in town driving, 58.3 mpg at 56 mph and 41.7 mpg at 75 mph. Driving the car at a steady 30 mph, the Automobile Association has obtained 83 mpg.

The Metro is the first popular car with 12-month, or 12,000 mile, service intervals

and according to BL figures, routine servicing in the first four years, at present charges, costs only £191, compared with £235 on the Fiesta, £239 on the Polo and £375 on the Starlet.

A three-door car, the Metro is, at 11ft 2in, up to 7in shorter than other cars in its class. But it is said to have as much, and in some cases more, passenger and luggage space.

The rear seat is split into two unequal portions which fold

down separately. The longer portion can take two children, while the shorter section can be folded to make way for a suitcase or other large object.

The Metro engines, mounted transversely and driving the front wheels, are derived from the overhead valve A series unit which has been substantially developed, at a cost of £30m, to give smoother running, lower maintenance and better economy.

The all-independent suspension is based on the Hydra-gas system used on other BL models.

The Metro is being built in a new highly automated factory at Longbridge, near Birmingham, claimed to be the most modern in Europe. BL hopes to reach full capacity of 6,500 cars a week by the middle of next year.

Can Metro save BL? page 19

Councils are
warned
over cash
controlBy Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

Local government faces a bleak future and is in danger of declining into a system of local agencies for central government, the Rating and Valuation Association conference, meeting at Llandudno, was told yesterday.

Mr Terry Cheetham, a former director of finance for Sutton Borough Council and now a director of the brokers, Buxton's and MMB Ltd, emphasised that the shape of local government was changing.

With proper consultation and cooperation a new and sleeker local government could emerge, he said. Without goodwill, or a general desire for local government to fulfil its historic role, it would change into a system of local agencies.

Mr Cheetham said that to be effective local government needed control over finance. "For that, local government must maintain its financial independence and not least must continue its own taxation system. Without that, local self-government must become a myth."

He deplored the widespread belief that anything undertaken by local government was bad by definition, probably unnecessary and certainly expensive. The outcry against local government expenditure was part of the outcry against public expenditure generally and it could be that local government was over-sensitive.

On occasions, however, it is difficult to avoid the impression that the criticism of public expenditure overall is being cleverly diverted to a criticism of local government.

Mr Cheetham argued that the greater freedom promised for local authorities by the Government in its legislation was illusory, and would effectively be the freedom to spend a very small amount of money.

The most significant development in local government finance is the increasing intrusion of central government control.

A devout Protestant refuses to be intimidated

Stir over houses sold to Catholics

From Christopher Thomas

October is a busy month on the Portadown front. Mr Henry Stothers, and he could do without being at the centre of a fierce controversy, has just been told that he has sold his house to a Catholic.

Mr Stothers is a member of the most fervent of the Protestant churches in Northern Ireland, the Free Presbyterians, and he belongs to the Democratic Unionist party, whose "loyalist" credentials have been widely demonstrated during its short and eventful history.

He is so busy at present that he has no time to take up the Union Jack that has been flown from the 40-ft pinnacle of a conifer tree in the front garden of his imposing house since the Protestant celebrations in the summer.

Nevertheless, he makes time to remain a devout and devoted servant to church and party, both of which have the Rev. Ian Stothers as their leader.

One can only imagine his surprise, therefore, when three officials of the local branch of his party sent him a brief letter, beginning obliquely and minously thus:

"Further to the matter dis-

cussed by yourself and the branch secretary at your home on Tuesday, and acting on information from friends and other sources, it has been decided by branch officers to ask for your resignation."

Mr Stothers was outraged. He had gone to great lengths to tell his branch officials how the "matter" came about.

He said yesterday: "I explained that over the past 10 years I had left the house empty except for two short spells when there were Protestant tenants. I did not charge rent to one of them, but he would not say because the house was too close to a Catholic ghetto."

He insisted that no Protestant had ever offered to buy, despite repeated advertising. "There was no alternative. I sold one house last March and the other in May."

Mr Stothers is known by everybody in the Portadown area. His ancestors, Scottish Presbyterians, arrived on the site 400 years ago.

He is a controversial figure. He was suspended from the Orange Order for two years in 1974, and the deadline by which Mr Stothers was to present his resignation has passed without incident.

"They know they have not got a leg to stand on," he observed.

In 1973 he was prominent among demonstrators who could not stomach the creeping unionism that he felt was threatening the Protestant St Mark's, the Church of Ireland parish church.

The minister was finally compelled to leave, and a more enlightened incumbent was welcomed: "It created havoc."

Mr Stothers recalled with a smile. "The Church of Ireland, the Methodists and the Presbyterians are all adopting a 'Romeward' trend," he said. "Only the Free Presbyterians adopt a strong stand on the Reformation principles. By the way, I believe in taking a man straight: are you a Protestant or a Roman Catholic?"

Meanwhile the "matter" has prompted Mr Stothers to seek legal advice. "There is nothing in our constitution that says I cannot sell houses or apply to Roman Catholics. These left-wing Johnny-cum-latties are not going to intimidate me."

For the moment the "matter" has slipped into the inner sanctums of the branch bureaucracy, and the deadline by which Mr Stothers was to present his resignation has passed without incident.

"They know they have not got a leg to stand on," he observed.

Drug used by dentist was
contaminated, inquest told

From Our Correspondent

A man who fell ill and died after visiting a dentist for fillings was given a general anaesthetic which had become contaminated, an inquest in Whitehaven, West Cumbria, was told yesterday.

The inquest heard that Mr Paul Pickering, aged 25, of Egremont, developed agonising pains after leaving the surgery of Mr Neil Forker in Egremont after he fell into a coma and died in hospital last Saturday, 7 days later.

Another man, Mr David McAllister, aged 20, also of Egremont, became seriously ill after receiving treatment at the same surgery on the same day, but has since fully recovered.

Both had been injected with general anaesthetic which tests later showed to have been contaminated.

Mr Pickering's parents told how their son was brought home

from the surgery on September 18 by the dentist and a doctor. "Mr William Pickering said: 'Paul was put to bed because he was in agony from pain in his back. His wife became frightened when he started bleeding from the mouth and after he was given two injections' by the doctor he was taken into hospital by ambulance."

Before adjourning the inquest to a date to be fixed, Mr Adrian Walker, the West Cumbria coroner, said he had not yet been given the cause of death.

Dr Bryan Beeson, a Home Office pathologist, had carried out the post mortem examination, but other tests had still to be made.

The Medical Protection Society, who are representing Mr Pickering, said the anaesthetic Methohexamine, which is commonly used, somehow became contaminated "prior to use".

Company fined over brooch

Franklin Mint Ltd of London

was fined £500 yesterday for selling teddy bear brooches wrongly described as "gold-plated". The company pleaded guilty before Working magistrates to two offences.

They were: supplying a base metal brooch to which the description "in 24 carat gold plate" was applied; and supplying such a brooch, described as "crafted in gold metal plate".

Mr Peter Harris, for Surrey County Council, said a brooch described in a newspaper was purchased for £9.50 and sent

for assay. It was found to be a tin-based alloy thinly plated with gold.

It was well known that gold plate did not mean gold-plated, Mr Harris said.

Mr Michael Gair, for the company, said it was a multinational concern with a sales turnover last year of £150m.

"The company had no intention of deceiving anybody," Mr Gair said. Advertisements in other newspapers were correct.

The fine was £250 for each offence, plus legal costs of £75 and £9.50 for the brooch.

£6m scheme for
Brighton
pier approved

From Our Correspondent

A £6m scheme to revive Brighton's derelict West Pier was approved by councillors yesterday. A fun-fair with a 140-ft wheel is proposed at the shore end.

The project of Mr Alan Hawes, a North Wales businessman, is backed by the West Pier Society. Mr Hawes plans to spend £3m on the fun-fair and £3m on restoration.

Councillors voted by more than two to one for the scheme, but full consent will not be given until Mr Hawes signs a contract to restore the pier and scrap his fun-fair if renovations are not completed.

Newspaper pays
libel damages
to Sir Stanley

Sir Stanley Matthews, the former England footballer, yesterday accepted undisclosed damages in settlement of a High Court libel action over a false newspaper report.

Sir Stanley, aged 65, now lives in Malta. He sued Express Newspapers over an article in the Daily Star last April which suggested that he had refused to pose for a photograph with a visiting amateur football team from Blackpool unless he was paid a fee.

Yesterday Sir Stanley's counsel said he and Lady Matthews were in Australia at the time.

Express Newspapers admitted there was no truth in the suggestion.

£750,000 towards the cost of designs.

Mr John Ellis, the team leader from Building Design Partnership, said that energy costs could be reduced by 34 per cent by simple good house-keeping techniques. Those included improved insulation, multiple glazing and insulated shutters; more use of daylight; and "equipment" modifications, such as summering devices.

A total reduction of 60 per cent could be achieved if those methods were combined with energy-reclamation. If the temperature of a hospital is reduced from 22°C to 18°C, energy requirements are halved.

How to cut hospital energy cost by 60%

By Annabel Ferriman

Health Services Correspondent

Energy costs in Britain's hospitals could be reduced by 60 per cent if more use was made of reclaimed heat and conventional good housekeeping techniques, a conference at the Department of Health and Social Security was told yesterday.

The department had commissioned a team of engineers and architects to look at hospital energy costs, which have recently risen to a record £60m a year in England and Wales.

New hospitals, such as St Thomas's, south London, have proved far more expensive to

heat and cool than those they replaced.

The department's team presented its conclusions to a conference of engineering and architectural specialists. Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, congratulated the team, which was made up of experts from the department and from a private consortium, on their plans for the world's first low-energy hospital.

"We are looking carefully at the proposals and we should be building the first low-energy hospital from the specifications in the near future."

The "European Economic Community" has given nearly

'Moonies' role misunderstood, counsel says

By David Nicholson-Lord

Widespread misunderstanding by outsiders of the Unification Church had prompted attempts to kidnap and "deprogramme" converts, Mr Geoffrey Shaw said in a libel action against Associated Newspapers in the High Court yesterday.

Converts sometimes resented being labelled "brainwashed zombies" by their friends and relatives, and decided to break

off contact with them, he said. The result was that the church was wrongly accused of breaking up families.

Mr Shaw was concluding his opening speech on behalf of Mr Dennis Orme, British leader of the Unification Church, in an action over a Daily Mail article of May, 1978.

Mr Justice Comyn yesterday gave Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, for Associated Newspapers, permission to cite 20 people in

addition to 26 already named as alleged victims of the church.

The judge said the allegations against the church, whose members are known as "Moonies" because of their adherence to the teachings of Sun Myung Moon, a South Korean, characterized it as a vast commercial hoax and as bogus, sinister and dangerous.

He also expressed alarm at the

"apparently endless scope" of the action.

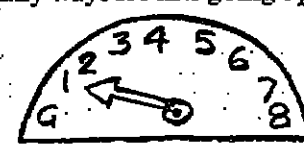
The change in a convert's lifestyle might be very marked, Mr Shaw said. He might spend much of his time witnessing or fund-raising in the streets, leave home and go to live in a church community and turn to a life of apparent chastity and selflessness.

The case was adjourned until today.

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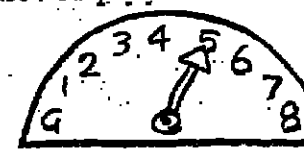
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HOME NEWS



A United Dairies milk float, built about 1935, on its final journey yesterday to the Science Museum where it will form part of the commercial vehicles collection.

Priest challenges international giants in moral fitness test

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs

Correspondent

Ten British companies with interest overseas have been named today in a statement as failing a moral fitness test formulated by a Roman Catholic parish priest in Birmingham, and will be one corporate shareholder less.

The David who challenged the international giants is Father Patrick O'Mahony, of Our Lady of the Wayside, Salford, who has a formidable reputation for human rights campaigning and fund-raising. Based on his own research into more than a hundred companies, his recommendation to withdraw investments from 10 of them has been accepted by the trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham's £2.5m investment fund.

Armed with a typewriter and a sharp eye for newspaper reports about British companies abroad, Father O'Mahony has pursued senior managers of companies concerned with his litany of difficult questions.

Five companies, Reckitts, Courtaulds, Allied Breweries, P and O, and John Brown, have been named as failing the O'Mahony's letters.

The chairman and chief

executive of Allied Breweries, Mr Keith Showering, wrote back: "With reference to your letter of January 7, we do not propose to answer your questionnaire."

Companies like Shell Transport and Trading and Burmah Oil replied with great courtesy and detail, sometimes seeking additional information from the heads of overseas branches.

In some cases it seems obvious that a particular situation has received board-room attention. It would not have had it if Father O'Mahony had not prompted an inquiry.

One senior executive wrote him a scribbled note assuring him that his conscience was clear, and he would have had nothing to do with a company that traded in an ethically questionable way.

Father O'Mahony said yesterday that some companies were obviously delighted to explain themselves and showed a high degree of responsibility.

The other five companies on Father O'Mahony's black list were judged by him to have failed to supply adequate information, or had subsidiaries in South Africa which paid wages which he judged were unacceptable.

Some of those companies, named as BICC, British Electric

Traction, BTR, Glynwed, and Croda International, had gone to considerable lengths to persuade Father O'Mahony that they were doing all they should do.

Coinciding with the announcement by the Roman Catholic Trustees, Father O'Mahony has published a large collection of his correspondence with big business.

It shows how he interrogated high company officials on subjects ranging from the sale of drugs in the Third World to oil pollution in Canada and mining in Aboriginal territory in Australia.

He gently urges Tarmac to set an example to others less well known, defends himself against the charge from British Electric Traction, that he is being uncharitable, and puts Mr Wedgwood Benn to the admission that the Labour Government failed to prevent British uranium mining in Namibia.

Father O'Mahony and his parish have been nominated for the Human Rights Prize of the Council of Europe by the British Council of Churches, of which the Roman Catholic Church is not a member.

Multi-national anti Human Rights, Birmingham (Mayhem) McCrimmon Ltd. E5.

Landing fees to rise again, airlines told

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Airlines which are taking the British Airports Authority to the High Court alleging that a 35 per cent increase in landing fees at Heathrow is "illegal" were warned yesterday of a further increase of 20 per cent from next spring.

The authority has told the airlines that it will need to raise charges by 5 per cent above the level of inflation of 15 per cent.

All the increases will be passed on to the passengers bringing about the end, from early next year, of the bargain fare offers which apply, particularly on the North Atlantic routes, this winter.

According to the authority's annual report, the London airports are expensive compared with their European counterparts, largely because of the British policy of collecting the costs of security and navigation services from users. In other countries those costs are usually met from general tax revenue.

It is accepted in the aviation industry that Heathrow is one of the most expensive airports in the world at which to land a jumbo jet. At peak periods the charge for such an aircraft, loaded with 300 passengers, is £4,000, and the 20 per cent increase planned by the airports authority will increase the bill to £4,800.

Pan American and a group of 20 foreign airlines, banded together in the British Airport Users' Action Group, are alleging that the 35 per cent increase in landing charges levied by the authority since April 1 are excessive and illegal.

The authority needs to raise large sums of capital to meet costs totalling £700 million over the next five years. Big projects under development include a fourth terminal at Gatwick, a fourth terminal at Heathrow, and the early stages of developing Stansted as the third London airport.

Portugal, he said, must have a reformed constitution wholly in conformity with that of the West European democracy and with a referendum.

The general, who is no relation of the Prime Minister, challenged President Eanes to drop his "habitual ambiguity" and seek to be all things to all men.

The Government has told President Eanes that it intends to dispense with the formal process of tendering resignations and to abolish the Council of the Revolution, the armed forces watchdog, and with that President Eanes is in agreement.

The challenge arose over a silver plaque of the "Adoration of the Shepherds" dated 1617 by Paul van Vianen, which the Rijksmuseum had bought at Christie's for £82,500. Van Vianen is considered one of the greatest Dutch silversmiths.

The Victoria and Albert Museum objected to its export and a hearing of the committee was called to consider withholding a licence.

A representative of the Rijksmuseum attended the hearing and said that two of the criteria used to judge what are national treasures lay outside the treaty's terms, namely: "Is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?" and "Is it of outstanding significance for the study of some particular branch of art, learning or history?"

Only a direct connection with Britain's history and national life was a permitted ground for preventing export, he said.

The Government, after consultations, appears to have decided that it could be both a Dutch and a British national treasure.

The export licence was withheld and the plaque was acquired by the Royal Scottish Museum.

Mr Spencer, aged 40, has since been convicted of the murder of Mr Robert Wilkes, aged 70, at a farm less than a mile from the scene of the murder.

Four men failed for the killing of Carl Bridgewater, aged 13, are appealing against their conviction after claims that new evidence has come to light.

There was a strong possibility that the four men, James Robinson, Patrick Molloy, Michael Hickey and Vincent Hickey were wrongly convicted, according to Justice, the all-party lawyers' organization.

Mr Tony Fryer, a solicitor for the defence at their trial, has submitted to Justice documents recently released to him by the Director of Public Prosecutions, which disclose details

WEST EUROPE

France surprises Community by accepting agreement on budget repayments to Britain

From Michael Horvath

London, Oct 2

French foreign ministers reached agreement here today on the method and timing of the repayment to Britain of part of its EEC budget contributions in line with the commitment accepted by member states last May.

The agreement, described by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, as a "very substantial" step, effectively removes the threat of a French veto on the payments which had seemed a possibility a few weeks ago.

Under the arrangements agreed, which are due to go into effect from November 1, Britain can expect to get about 50 per cent of the £7,300 million it is due for calendar 1980 and 1981 by March 31 of the following year in each case.

This means that Britain should receive by the end of next March about £3,650 million, to which it is entitled as reimbursement of this year's budget contributions. The rest would follow later in the year.

A timetable of this order would be roughly in line with Mrs Thatcher's insistence that Britain should get "the bulk" of the annual refund due within the British financial year, which runs from April to April.

About two-thirds of the EEC fund will take the form of EEC grants for public-sector spending, programmes in Britain. The other third will be used for other purposes, such as aid to regional development projects.

The French had initially wanted each group of aid projects to be subject to the unanimous approval of the Council of Ministers, which would have put them in a position to hold up payment of the budget rebates.

It was assumed that the French would retain some means of exerting pressure on Britain, during next Spring's EEC farm-price review when President Giscard d'Estaing will face reelection next April.

But the French had been surprised by the fact that the British government had been willing to accept the agreement, which would be a link between today's agreement and the farm-price settlement.

The only commitment Britain had given, Lord Carrington said, was a reaffirmation of its intention, along with other member states, to get new EEC fisheries policy established by the end of this year.

Steel plan, page 17

From Ian Murray

Paris, Oct 2

In a rare display of solidarity, representatives of all four main political groupings as well as members of the two main trade union organizations were called to march through Paris this evening in protest at Friday's synagogue bombing.

The march had originally been called by Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples (MARA), the French anti-racialist organization, to demonstrate the public's anger at the bomb which exploded outside a synagogue in the west of Paris, killing four people and injuring nine others.

Since the MARA's call, the march had been joined by the various political groupings, and the two police unions, which between them represent 80 per cent of the force. Their leaders said at the weekend

that 30 serving officers were in a list of names of members of the outlawed extreme right-wing Fédération d'Action Nationale Européenne (FANE).

The police force's own internal inquiry department have also received anonymous threatening calls. One of them was told: "If anything happens to any of our 30 colleagues your boss won't get much further."

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The challenge arose over a silver plaque of the "Adoration of the Shepherds" dated 1617 by Paul van Vianen, which the Rijksmuseum had bought at Christie's for £82,500. Van Vianen is considered one of the greatest Dutch silversmiths.

The Victoria and Albert Museum objected to its export and a hearing of the committee was called to consider withholding a licence.

A representative of the Rijksmuseum attended the hearing and said that two of the criteria used to judge what are national treasures lay outside the treaty's terms, namely: "Is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?" and "Is it of outstanding significance for the study of some particular branch of art, learning or history?"

Only a direct connection with Britain's history and national life was a permitted ground for preventing export, he said.

The Government, after consultations, appears to have decided that it could be both a Dutch and a British national treasure.

The export licence was withheld and the plaque was acquired by the Royal Scottish Museum.

From Michael Horvath

London, Oct 2

French foreign ministers reached agreement here today on the method and timing of the repayment to Britain of part of its EEC budget contributions in line with the commitment accepted by member states last May.

The agreement, described by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, as a "very substantial" step, effectively removes the threat of a French veto on the payments which had seemed a possibility a few weeks ago.

Under the arrangements agreed, which are due to go into effect from November 1, Britain can expect to get about 50 per cent of the £7,300 million it is due for calendar 1980 and 1981 by March 31 of the following year in each case.

This means that Britain should receive by the end of next March about £3,650 million, to which it is entitled as reimbursement of this year's budget contributions. The rest would follow later in the year.

A timetable of this order would be roughly in line with Mrs Thatcher's insistence that Britain should get "the bulk" of the annual refund due within the British financial year, which runs from April to April.

About two-thirds of the EEC fund will take the form of EEC grants for public-sector spending, programmes in Britain. The other third will be used for other purposes, such as aid to regional development projects.

The French had initially wanted each group of aid projects to be subject to the unanimous approval of the Council of Ministers, which would have put them in a position to hold up payment of the budget rebates.

It was assumed that the French would retain some means of exerting pressure on Britain, during next Spring's EEC farm-price review when President Giscard d'Estaing will face reelection next April.

But the French had been surprised by the fact that the British government had been willing to accept the agreement, which would be a link between today's agreement and the farm-price settlement.

The only commitment Britain had given, Lord Carrington said, was a reaffirmation of its intention, along with other member states, to get new EEC fisheries policy established by the end of this year.

Steel plan, page 17

From Ian Murray

Paris, Oct 2

In a rare display of solidarity, representatives of all four main political groupings as well as members of the two main trade union organizations were called to march through Paris this evening in protest at Friday's synagogue bombing.

The march had originally been called by Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples (MARA), the French anti-racialist organization, to demonstrate the public's anger at the bomb which exploded outside a synagogue in the west of Paris, killing four people and injuring nine others.

Since the MARA's call, the march had been joined by the various political groupings, and the two police unions, which between them represent 80 per cent of the force. Their leaders said at the weekend

that 30 serving officers were in a list of names of members of the outlawed extreme right-wing Fédération d'Action Nationale Européenne (FANE).

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Mr Martens plans for four-party coalition

Brussels, Oct 2—Mr Willy Martens, Belgian Minister of the Interior, tonight announced plans for a four-party coalition grouping Socialists and Socialists and would open formal negotiations for a new government.

It would have the advantage of drawing up a wide-ranging programme to stabilize and stimulate the economy, he told a conference.

King Baudouin accepted resignation of the Government today after intensive failed to hold the coalition together.

Mr Martens offered resignation to King Baudouin, who asked for a last-minute effort to end a rift over the mounting economic problem.

The Government, when the Liberals, urging rigorous financial policies, failed to ratify what they called "cosmetic" measures. In particular, they insisted on unemployment benefits, both husband and wife.

The Socialists resisted. A statement today said Baudouin had asked Mr Martens, of the Flemish Christians, to try to form a government while the out Cabinet stayed on in a caretaker capacity.

Party leaders had been discussing a new formal coalition pact in Brussels. But political sources said right-wing Liberals in coalition called for greater social spending than Martens proposed. After coming into the early of today, the Liberals split. They made up coalition with the Christians and Socialists.

Party is divided into Dutch and French-speaking wings. Mr Martens hoped to bring Liberals into the Government this third time becoming Minister early last year, a two-thirds majority in Parliament for constitutional change, limited autonomy for Dutch and French-speaking regions.

Mr Martens narrowly avoided another crisis two weeks when he rejected Socialist proposals to shelve the Nato nuclear weapons in Belgium. —Rei

From Patricia Clogh

Bonn, Oct 2

Leaders of West Germany's victorious Social Democratic-Free Democratic coalition, meeting for the first time since the election, today pledged to continue with their debate and security policy.

During a two-hour meeting, Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and Herr Egon Bahr, Minister of the Interior, agreed on the principles to guide the coalition during the next four years.

Detailed negotiations on a coalition agreement, due to start on October 20, will be more difficult. The parties differ on many important issues. And the Free Democrats' election gains have increased their weight in the coalition, raising the demand for influence on policy.

Today the coalition leaders agreed to continue the foreign and security policy, which had won "solid confidence over the past 11 years", a statement said.

The coalition would also continue to work to hold the nation together and continue to seek better conditions for those living in East Germany.

Terrorism and violence would be fought and security ensured without limiting personal freedoms. A declaration of intent to resist pressure, particularly from the Opposition, to take repressive measures for the sake of law and order.

The opposition leaders, so far avoided the Night of Long Knives, which opponents and many men expected, but the next years are expected to see a struggle among leaders trying to secure the CDU and CSU to the chancellorship in the 1984 elections.

The parliamentary are almost unanimously electing Herr Kohl as their floor leader for the next legislature.

Looking forward to the possibility that the ruling coalition could break up, Herr Egon Bahr said the CDU and CSU to themselves "capable of a success" with either of the present parties.

Herr Kohl was clear attempting to pave the way for a future change of government.

Spanish accept delay in entry to EEC

From Our Own Correspondent

Spain seems to have accepted some delay in now being able to join the EEC as a member of the EEC.

The date for Spanish entry was provisionally fixed for January 1, 1983, would probably have been put off for a few months. The Spanish Minister for Relations with the Community, said today after meeting Free leaders.

The boycott call is based on the strength of a report by the Belgian consumer association, Test Achet, in an inquiry embracing 7,000 car owners it claimed that the Kieffer tyres suffered more "blowouts" than other makes.

The UFC has decided the Test Achet findings are sufficient to call the boycott, similar in the one which was successful in bringing about a change in BSC regulations for this case of blowouts in veal.

Kieffer-Colombes are surprisingly immediately issued a statement, doubting the seriousness of the boycott, which it says was based on a population sample that had not been scientifically determined. The company complains that no attempt was made to verify the

findings through specialized controls.

The company also points out that it has no five years and that the different products compared had in fact not different.

The Test Achet report gave Kieffer tyres an overall blowout average of 77 per cent, significantly better than the 8.5 per cent for Goodrich tyres.

The French company is concerned that the boycott will give all its products a bad name.

Kieffer-Colombes makes nearly 18 million tyres a year, but despite a turnover of 2,600 million last year the company lost 400 million. This resulted in a restructuring of the company involving 600 redundancies. If the boycott were to

have had the other 12,000 players of Kieffer-Colombes Europe could find their way to the UFC.

The UFC is full of confidence after the success of the boycott and convinced that it had proved its original findings which were backed last year by a survey of 11,000 motorists. The organization does not intend to advance a detailed defence in the State Council on the legality of the decision by a Government to refuse to end the boycotts to be withdrawn.

GP's drinking study urged

By Our Health Services

Correspondent

Doctors' drinking habits should be investigated to increase the profession's understanding of alcoholism and excessive drinking, Professor Philip Rhodes, Postgraduate Dean of Southampton University said yesterday.

The rate of alcohol-related disorders among doctors is 2.4 times higher than among other members of the social class one. Doctors should be asked to cooperate in an investigation into their drinking practices just as they cooperated in research into their smoking habits, he said.

Professor Rhodes, who was speaking at the annual meeting of the Medical Council on

Alcoholism in London, said that the research into doctors' drinking habits had helped to increase understanding of disorders related to smoking and that cooperation from doctors on alcohol research could similarly raise levels of understanding.

Attitudes were hard to change but could be changed over time, as they had been with regard to smoking.

There was a need to foster social disapproval of drunkenness, Professor Rhodes said. It was harder to get the message about the dangers of alcoholism across to consultants than to family doctors, and yet consultants were important as sources of trends and changes of attitudes.

Some of those companies, named as BICC, British Electric

In brief

Rock star choked after 40 vodkas

John Bonham, aged 32, drummer with the rock group, Led Zeppelin, died on September 25 from inhaling vomit after drinking about 40 measures of vodka in 12 hours, an inquest at Windsor, Berkshire, was told yesterday.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded. Mr Rex King, the drummer's personal assistant, said he had helped put him to bed after he had "dozed off" on a sofa at the home of Jimmy Page, the group's guitarist. He was found dead next morning.

Agreed damages for road crash injuries of £250,000 were awarded to Mr Eric Hall, aged 23, an electrician, of Vallance Avenue, Chingford, Essex, in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Hall, who is paralysed from the neck down apart from his right arm, was a back seat passenger in a car which went out of control in September, 1976.

No inquest on actress

Hattie Jacques, the actress who was found dead at her home in Earls Court, London, on Monday died from a heart attack, a Coroner's examination confirmed yesterday. There will not be an inquest.

Ulster ambush fails

Armed men ambushed a party of 10 members of the Defence Regiment near his home outside Brookborough, Co Fermanagh, yesterday morning. He was not hit and returned fire. The men fled across the border into the Irish Republic.

Actor grew cannabis

Gerald Sundquist, aged 25, a television actor, was fined £500 by Cirencester magistrates yesterday for growing cannabis. He admitted growing 21 plants for his own use in the garden of his home at Barnsley, near Cirencester.

Murder verdict appeal

Four men failed for the killing of Carl Bridgewater, aged 13, are appealing against their conviction after claims that new evidence has come to light.

There was a strong possibility that the four men, James Robinson, Patrick Molloy, Michael Hickey and Vincent Hickey were wrongly convicted, according to Justice, the all-party lawyers' organization.

Mr Tony Fryer, a solicitor for the defence at their trial, has submitted to Justice documents recently released to him by the Director of Public Prosecutions, which disclose details

OVERSEAS

Turkish junta ratifies death sentences for terrorist murders

From Sinan Fisek
Ankara, Oct 7

The ruling National Security Council, chaired by General Ertugrul Ersoy, has approved the death sentences passed on four terrorists—two from the right and two from the left—and guilty of murder.

The penalties pronounced by the Ankara military tribunal against the four terrorists, both right and left, were: death by hanging.

The four terrorists, all of whom were members of the National Security Council, were: Mehmet Ali Aygün, 24, and Mehmet Ali Aygün, 24, and Mehmet Ali Aygün, 24, and Mehmet Ali Aygün, 24.

The five-man National Security Council, which is assuming the powers of Parliament until the creation of a new assembly, approved the special law which must be enacted for the death sentences to be carried out.

Mr Aygün, aged 24, and Mr Mehmet Ali Aygün, 24, were found guilty of the murder of a police officer and the killing of five people and wounding of others during attacks on police stations in Ankara.

The day that their files were sent to the Ankara military tribunal, they managed to escape from the maximum security prison at Mamak, near Ankara. A number of personnel of the military prison were arrested in connection with the escape, and although Mr Mehmet Ali Aygün was later arrested, Mr Aygün is still free.

Mr Aygün and Mr Mehmet Ali Aygün, also their co-accused, were sentenced to death for a similar offence, having killed two people in a machine-gun attack on Ankara's Tekeliler area, which is a centre of terrorism.

If the sentences are carried out, the men will be the first people to be executed in Turkey since May 1972, when three leaders of the leftist Turkish People's Liberation Army were hanged.

Several other death sentences have been passed by military tribunals, including those against 22 people accused of armed revolt and mass murder during the Kahramanmaraş incidents which left more than a hundred people dead in December 1978.

Another sentence now before the Military Court of Appeals is that against Seyhan Soyergin, a leftist militant convicted of participating in the murder of Captain Zekeriya Arslan who was killed in Ankara just two days after the military takeover.

Yet another file which is reported to have been sent to the National Security Council for approval is that of Mehmet Ali Aygün, the right-wing extremist sentenced to die for the murder last year of Ahmet İpekçi, the editor-in-chief of the independent daily Milliyet. Mr Aygün, 30, is a fugitive, having escaped from the military prison at Kartal, in Istanbul, about 10 months ago.

The death sentences against Mr Mehmet Ali Aygün and Mr Mehmet Ali Aygün will be carried out by the civilian authorities, at the Ankara penitentiary.

Meanwhile, the Ankara prosecutor said today that the investigations of more than 70 former left under arrest since September 12 had been completed, and that their files had been sent to the competent tribunals.

The arrested MPs are accused of a number of offences committed while they enjoyed parliamentary immunity, and could therefore be neither investigated, nor tried.

Korea's 'hot line' is cut off by the North

From Jacqueline Rediff
Seoul, Oct 7

The "hot line" telephone link between Seoul and Pyongyang has been cut off by the North Koreans, according to an official statement issued here today.

Although the South Koreans had already said that their last call to North Korea on September 25 had not been answered, today's statement was the first official indication that the line had been intentionally disconnected.

The hot line was reopened in February this year when a series of talks began to find ways of setting up a meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two states. But North Korea decided to boycott the eleventh session of the talks scheduled for September 26, saying it could not discuss reunification with the military fascist regime in the South.

Today's statement accused North Korea of ignoring proposals put forward by the South and of committing to overthrow the South Korean Government. It said that the North's decision to suspend the talks proved that it had used them only as a means to probe the political situation and stir up unrest in South Korea after the assassination of President Park Chung Hee last year and the ensuing temporary confusion.

The Seoul government yesterday accused the communist North of falsely reporting that South Korea was supplying military spare parts to Iran.



Emperor Hirohito, who is 79, harvesting rice at a small paddy in the Imperial Palace. It will be offered to a shrine as the year's first crop.

Mr Fraser reserves right to block funds

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, Oct 7

Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, indicated today that he would ask his supporters in the Senate to block supply of funds to a Labour government again if he found it necessary.

It was his action in doing this in 1975 that led to the dismissal of the Whitlam Government and the greatest constitutional crisis in Australia's history.

At that time, although Labour was in power, the Liberal-Country Party coalition controlled the Senate. The blocking of supply, initiated by Mr Fraser who was then opposition leader led to Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, dismissing Mr Gough Whitlam (who had refused to call an election), installing Mr Fraser as caretaker Prime Minister and calling an election.

Mr Fraser was asked at a journalists' luncheon in Sydney today if he would again block supply and replied: "If the circumstances exist that existed in 1975, and I ask you to remember what was happening in 1975, I would do everything I could to get rid of the government of the day."

Mr Fraser's potentially inflammatory remark comes at a time when it has become likely that his election to be held on October 18 could be much closer than expected.

Although scepticism about opinion polls is strong, the fact that the Liberals are behind in all the main polls is starting to cause excitement.

It is quite clear that the Government is shaken by the polls' predictions and that they expected that by now the pendulum would be swinging back their way. But yet another poll to be published tomorrow in the weekly magazine *The Bulletin*, puts Labour at 53 per cent and the Government at 47 per cent.

Mr Fraser's campaign has accordingly been changed from a far more hard-hitting effort, with him berating the Opposition, both professionally and personally.

In a short speech at the weekend, Mr Fraser used the word "socialist" 19 times. It is a word that does not often surface about the Australian Labour Party, which although socialist in some areas of policy, is nevertheless distinctly a supporter of private enterprise.

Mr Fraser's use of the word, and his constant reminders about the performance of the Whitlam Government, seem designed to scare the people away from voting Labour.

Further doubt about a government victory was displayed today by the stock exchanges in Sydney and Melbourne, both of which plunged.

Mr William Hayden, the Labour leader, who has been taking the prospects of success philosophically and calmly, today challenged Mr Fraser to make available for public scrutiny his tax returns.

While insisting he was not accusing Mr Fraser of tax avoidance, Mr Hayden said both the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition should be subjected to such public scrutiny.

Sunken fortune starts political dispute

From Peter Hazell
Kyoto, Oct 7

A fortune in stolen treasure, reported to be lying in the wreck of a Russian battle cruiser which was sunk in 310 ft of water during the Russo-Japanese war 75 years ago, has used a new dispute between Japan and Moscow.

Today, as a group of British and Japanese divers continued air attempts to retrieve the treasure, of gold ingots, coins and platinum bars, the Soviet Embassy repeated Moscow's claim to the fortune: it is covered by Japanese officials, and the onus of the operation have claimed that in return for the treasure the Soviet Union would have to hand back its spoils from the Second World War.

Japanese islands which have been occupied by Russian troops for 35 years.

The latest attempts by a controversial Japanese businessman to recover what has been described as the richest of all sunken treasures began last month when a diving bell and tender barge were anchored five miles off the Japanese coast at Tsushima Island. It was here that the 8,500-ton battle cruiser the Admiral Nakhimov sank on May 28, 1905, a turning point in the Russo-Japanese war.

The divers, who were hired by ship salvaging contractor, Nippon Marine Development Corporation, have apparently located the wreck of the cruiser, retrieving a platinum bar weighing 22 lb last month.

Historical notes indicate that the Admiral Nakhimov was carrying a fortune in gold coins, British gold coins and platinum bars when she left European waters in 1904 to reinforce the Russian fleet in the Pacific.

Mr Kazumi Tanaka, president of the Nippon Marine Development Corporation, is convinced that the operation will pay off. "It's my personal view that there is nearly £1,500,000 worth of gold and platinum. Under international law,

the Soviet Union has no basis to its claim," he said.

The cruiser and 23 other Russian ships were sunk or captured during a decisive sea battle which led to a Japanese victory in the war.

Since then Japanese and other treasure hunters have made 248 unsuccessful attempts to prize the fortune from the hold of the Admiral Nakhimov. The latest attempt has been sponsored by Mr Ryochi Sasagawa, a well-known businessman and former war criminal. He is 61, a multi-millionaire in his own right and the owner of a controversial motorboat gambling syndicate.

His spokesman says that Mr Sasagawa has invested considerable sums in the treasure hunt. "Mr Sasagawa says that if the Soviet Union wants to retrieve the treasure then it will have to return Japanese territory which was occupied at the end of the Second World War," the spokesman said.

British and Japanese divers on the project say they have so far located 30 ingots, but they are still not certain whether the reported fortune is actually within the hold of the wreck.

The *Treasure Divers Guide* says the task of salvaging the gold and platinum from the Admiral Nakhimov is daunting. "In addition to problems of bad weather during most parts of the year, strong currents and great depths, there is another wicked factor: the cruiser's ammunition, which could be exploded."

Bad weather has disrupted diving for several weeks but operations were resumed yesterday from the tender barge, the Ten Oh (Heavenly Response), which was built in secret in Singapore at a cost of £5m.

Most of the underwater work is being done by British divers. At present the barge is servicing a diving bell which can operate at a depth of 500 feet. The divers say they are able to enter the ship with ease because previous expeditions have made large holes in the upper decks with high explosives.

Hongkong dogs killed after boy lies from rabies

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Oct 7

Savvy dogs in Hongkong are being exterminated because of fears of a rabies outbreak.

On Saturday an eight-year-old boy died two months after being bitten by a stray, the first rabies case in Hongkong for 23 years.

Nearly 300 dogs have been destroyed since Saturday and 2 people have been treated for bites.

The authorities' action was astounded by recent reports of rabies deaths around Canton and in Chinese villages, farms and ports near Hongkong.

Burnham power strengthened by new constitution

Georgetown, Oct 7

Mr Forbes Burnham, Guyana's Prime Minister for the past 16 years, has become the first executive President with strong powers under a controversial new constitution.

Mr Burnham, whose opponents have accused him of trying to entrench himself for life, said after talking the oath of office yesterday that the nation's new basic law protected the people's rights.

The new constitution turns the presidency from a largely ceremonial post into one where a powerful chief executive can both appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Britain keen to clear way for Belize independence

Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Talks on the future of Belize resume in New York on October 14 between Britain and Guatemala, with Belizean representatives, as usual, accompanying the British delegation.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had formal discussions with Señor Castillo, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, 44 May, when it was understood that the talks made some progress.

Britain is keen to press forward in granting Belize its independence, but has made it clear that there can be no ceding of Belizean territory to Guatemala, or any settlement of the territorial problem which does not command the support of the Belizean people.

The fact that opinion at the United Nations is almost unanimously in favour of the British policy of self-determination for Belize is a strong point in Britain's favour, in pushing for a speedy solution.

SELLING OVERSEAS

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At the sign of the Black Horse



OVERSEAS

McGovern fight to hold the prairies

From Patrick Brogan
Sioux Falls, Oct. 7

Mr. George McGovern, the Senate's best known liberal, is fighting for his political life here this year. South Dakota is a deeply conservative state and the winds of conservatism are blowing strongly across the prairies and may carry Mr. McGovern away with them.

He is running for reelection again, spending \$1.2m on the campaign and assiduously showing himself at every meeting in every village in South Dakota. His challenger is Mr. James Abdnor, who has been one of the state's two congressmen for the past eight years and has therefore managed to build up his own organization and his own popularity in that time. He also will spend over \$1m.

In 1974, which was a Democratic year anyway, Mr. McGovern was reelected without much difficulty against an unknown former prisoner of war in North Vietnam. This is likely to be a Republican year and Mr. Abdnor is a more formidable opponent. Furthermore, Senator McGovern is at the top of the conservative "hit" list senators whom the Model Majority and other such organizations hope to defeat this year.

The National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) sent \$160,000 on attacking Senator McGovern here in television and newspaper advertisements, but abruptly ended their campaign early last summer when it became counterproductive. They are decent people up here and perhaps felt that the strident rhetoric of the ultra-right was inappropriate and unfair.

Mr. Abdnor is not strident. Indeed, he has a stutter, and this is one reason that so far he has refused to join debates against Senator McGovern. Rather naively, he never names Mr. McGovern in his speeches, referring to him as "my opponent." When they attend the same public events, the senator makes a point of being nice to



The neighbours looked in when Mr Carter met the Loftus family in the garden of their Chicago home on Monday.

his rival, chatting to him, patronizing him, embarrassing him. Mr. Abdnor finds it rather difficult to cope with Senator McGovern.

One of the issues that the conservatives are using against Senator McGovern is abortion. The senator is firmly against a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion, and he supports spending government money on abortions for poor women who need them for social or medical reasons, and who could not pay for abortions themselves. Mr. Abdnor, who is a staunch supporter of Mr. McGovern, is a Republican and so does NCPAC, and so do many people in South Dakota.

A large majority of Americans (61 to 34 per cent in a Harris poll released this week-end) support the proposed amendment, but it is a matter of such

concern to some people that it colours their decisions on other matters and can change the result of a close election. South Dakota is one of the most devoutly Christian states in the union.

The chairman of that committee is Senator Herman Talmadge of Georgia, who will probably be reelected himself next month, despite the scandals that have touched him. Mr. McGovern would therefore remain second in command, but it is not the loss of a position of power and importance to a farm state. He will argue that if he is defeated, South Dakota will lose all its influence in Congress because the other senators and this congressmen, one or both of whom will be newcomers, are among the most junior in both Houses.

US Elections

The senator opposed President Carter's embargo on the sale of grain to the Soviet Union. This is a farm state and his constituents are firmly against the embargo. It is also a Republican state and will vote solidly for Mr. Reagan in November. One of Mr. McGovern's

strongest arguments to persuade voters to split the ticket "to vote for a Republican President and for a Democratic senator—is his position as second in seniority on the agricultural committee of the Senate.

There are no public opinion polls up here. It is the conventional wisdom, born out by canvassing returns from both sides, that Mr. McGovern was far behind Mr. Abdnor until recently and is now catching up. The Republican claim that the congressmen still leads the senator by 10 or 15 percentage points, while the Democrats claim that the race is neck and neck.

Republican dignitaries pass through South Dakota to help Mr. Abdnor in his campaign, and former President Ford was here recently. It turned out somewhat to Mr. McGovern's advantage, however, because he was able to show that Mr. Ford supported his own position rather than Mr. Abdnor's on abortion, on the Panama canal treaties and on Salt II.

Russia reassures US on intentions in Gulf

From David Cross
Washington, Oct. 7

President Carter has exchanged letters with Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, about the continuing conflict between Iraq and Iran. He believes that Moscow does not want war to break out in a general way throughout the Gulf area.

Disclosing this in a television interview on the campaign trail in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, yesterday, the President said the biggest threat to American security would arise "if the Soviets should be tempted to move into Iran or to move into the Persian Gulf itself on the basis of a general war."

This would be a direct threat, not only to our security but the security of other Western nations which depend on oil supplies from that region for their well-being," Mr. Carter added.

The President said that he and his Administration had a "means of communicating back and forth on a fairly regular basis" with the Soviet leadership. In addition to messages between the two leaders, Mr. Edmund Muskie, the Secretary of State, had had several hours

of talks with his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, at the United Nations in New York, he added. On that occasion Mr. Gromyko had delivered another "personal letter" from President Brezhnev.

In this interview, President Carter also denied recent newspaper reports that Mr. Brezhnev might have been in the Administration's view of a second round of office in the election near month. Mr. Muskie enjoyed his job and had a "very fine relationship" with the White House, Mr. Carter claimed. "He's pleased with what he is doing, and my hope is that he'll continue to do it in the State Department," he added.

In another development, the American Embassy in Teheran said today that Iranian aircraft losses in the war have been approximately twice as high as those of Iraq. Citing Pentagon and congressional analysts here, the embassy said that Iran had lost at least 50 aircraft and perhaps as many as 100. The bulk of these were F4 and F5 fighter-bombers. By contrast, Iraq had lost between 30 and 40 aircraft, with the losses spread among MIG 21 and 23 fighters and Tupolev Tu22 bombers.

Special In envoy fail to deliver war report

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

In what the Foreign Office termed "an unfortunate incident" yesterday, the envoy who came to deliver a report on the Iranian view of the war left without a message on his mission.

The reason given by the Foreign Office was that the minister was unavailable. Mr. Mehdi Navab, the Iranian Minister of War, had been unable to stay in Tehran, only officials felt unable to stay on today when Mr. Douglas, Minister of State, could not meet him.

It is not known who Mr. Navab's mission was, but not willing to talk to an official, such as Mr. Douglas, in Tehran, now he is in London.

The Foreign Office said that it is very much interested that Mr. Navab had been able to stay in Tehran in order to see a minister who was able to deliver a message on his return from Iran.

Analysis of Third World's new type of war

Chaotic fighting with modern arm

From Richard Burr
Washington, Oct. 7

The Iraq-Iran conflict could be the forerunner of a new type of war in the Third World, in which more destructive military power is applied in an erratic and unrestrained manner.

American government and academic specialists are studying the fighting, which has included spectacular air strikes against civilian targets, is far different from traditional border wars between less developed nations. Defence Department analysts predicted that the Iranian military, demoralized by political turmoil at home, would quickly be overwhelmed by Iraqi forces. The Iraqis have made gains on the ground but the Iranian Air Force has performed far beyond expectations with advanced aircraft and munitions supplied earlier by the United States.

Some analysts said the situation was predicted by Zehakel, Dror, a spokesman of the danger of conflicts in the Third World, "radical" governments equipped with modern hardware, would use it to engage all-out wars.

Tehran's apparent preference for strategic air attacks, rather than battlefield strikes, has reflected that country's inability to conduct more conventional operations. Officials here have been unable to conduct more conventional operations. Officials here have been unable to conduct more conventional operations.

Of special concern, however, is the possible spread of nuclear weapons to the Middle East and other areas. American officials said fighting could lead to attempts to take steps to offset the possibility of uncontrolled warfare in the Third World.

The conflict could lead to Washington and Moscow exercising greater restraint in their conventional arms sales. The problem of nuclear spread officials said might also be a factor in the arms control talks in Geneva.

Neo-Nazi threat brings unity not seen for years

Hints of help for Jews in Europe

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Oct. 7

At a time when internal ethnic and religious divisions threaten Israel's unity, the recent wave of neo-Nazi violence in Europe has unified the country in a way not experienced since the Yom Kippur war seven years ago.

From the left of the Opposition Labour Alignment to the most right-wing supporters of Mr. Begin's coalition, the upsurge of anti-Semitism, particularly in France, has provoked universal horror and determination that recent European history shall never be repeated.

The national mood was well illustrated after Sunday's Cabinet meeting in which the attacks on European Jewry were the dominant topic. Asked to comment on the atmosphere inside the Cabinet room, Dr. Joseph Burg, the normally jocular Interior Minister, replied grimly: "Very sour and very bitter."

So far, the only points for argument are how far the French Government should be publicly condemning the resurgence of neo-fascism and how Israel should best respond to a phenomenon only too familiar to the great majority of its citizens.

Some Cabinet members like Mr. Haim Landau, the Trans-

port Minister—who claimed that the current policies of the French administration reminded him of the infamous Vichy regime—were all for outright condemnation of France. But the majority counselled caution.

Already there have been hints from at least one senior official that if the French fail to deal with the terror threat, and if Jews in Europe prove unable to defend themselves, the duty of the Israeli Government would be to help them. "No attempt was made to specify how much help could be given. But in the past, the Israeli secret service has often operated successfully on foreign soil, and already it is thought to have built up a detailed dossier on the new extreme right groups operating in Europe.

In such an atmosphere, there is considerable public sympathy here for the self-styled World Congress for the Defence of Oppressed Jewry. From its base in Tel Aviv, the organization is using finance provided by the millionaire Knesset member, Mr. Samuel Flato Sharon, to send small squads of Israeli vigilantes and ex-army instructors to Paris.

Diplomats predict that other Israeli defence groups will go into action if "anti-semitic violence continues while the Government here will be under

increasing pressure to take action itself.

Although suspected of courting publicity, the Congress has provided a valuable safety valve for frustrated Israelis. "We believe that it is the job of Israel to protect Jews of the world—not just with words, but with action," the senior organizer, Mr. Gilbert Amal, explained.

But it is not so much the reaction of the politicians and political activists that impresses an outsider. It is rather the repeated and passionate remarks of ordinary Israelis, many of whom are at the same time critical of many aspects of their own society.

"The resurgence of European Nazism shows us one thing above all else—the crying need for Israel as a haven for Jews," said one London-born Jewish tour guide.

Most Israelis are convinced there is a direct link between Arab terrorism and the neo-Nazi groups although no convincing evidence has yet been offered.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official explained western "The one factor which links terrorists of the extreme right and the extreme left is anti-Semitism. I have seen it happen in Latin America and I believe we are all now seeing it happen in Europe."

Israel appeal for EEC to strike at the PLO

From Michael Hornsby
Luxembourg, Oct. 7

The EEC's pro-Arab diplomacy in the Middle East was an encouragement to anti-Jewish terrorism in Europe of the kind seen in last week's bombing of a synagogue in Paris, Mr. Itzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister said here today.

After a meeting with EEC Foreign Ministers to review trade relations between Israel and the Community, Mr. Shamir urged the Nine "to strike at the most important source of this terrorism: the agencies of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Europe."

Mr. Shamir said that he saw "a certain connexion" between the EEC's advocacy of PLO involvement in Middle East peace negotiations and the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe. I would advise European governments to be much more cautious in their relations with these terrorist groups in our region."

Although intended as an occasion to review the operations of the EEC-Israel trade agreement, the meeting was largely taken up by Mr. Shamir's trenchant criticism of the policy being pursued by the Nine in the Middle East as set out in the Venice statement of last June.

It was in that statement that the Nine called for the "association" of the PLO with the Middle East peace process, though they stopped short of endorsing the PLO and its claim to be the only legitimate representation of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Shamir said the statement contained "formulas which are totally unacceptable to Israel" and would make "no positive contribution toward peace."

Israel, he said, was "only touched in the world to remain with military, political, economic and cultural liquidation," an illusion to the resolution adopted last June by the PLO's guerrilla wing.

Some of the Arab states with which the Nine "enjoy the best of relations, regularly supply military equipment and power to aid to European terrorists who systematically attack democracy, Jews and Israel," Mr. Shamir said.

He also expressed "grave concern" over the "catastrophic implications" of Spanish entry to the EEC for other Mediterranean exporters of agricultural products to the Community.

Journalists expelled: At least two Soviet journalists have been expelled from Egypt during the past 24 hours, for alleged espionage with regard to the Egyptian military, said a Cairo radio source.

Air strikes continue: Iranian jets bombed northern Iraq today and Iraqi forces pounded industrial and military targets in Baghdad, said a Cairo radio source.

Battle for river imminent

Continued from page 1

manoeuvres, Dutch cattle feed and Chinese table tennis bats.

Israeli artillery continued to fire into Khormashahr from gun positions along the Iranian border. Iranian shells were still bursting among them this morning—but many of the Iraqi 133mm guns have now been moved into the Khormashahr suburbs, presumably to support Iraqi helicopters who are about to commence the battle for the Karun river.

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What Jordan hopes for in supporting Iraq

From Tawfiq Makhadmeh
Amman, Oct. 7

King Hussein's outright support for Iraq in its war with Iran has raised many questions about his motives.

In his speech to the nation yesterday, the King said that Iraq's support for the Arab cause was a "strategic depth" for Jordan, and recalled Iraqi military support for his country in the 1967 war with Israel and on other occasions.

King Hussein apparently wanted to secure Iraq's support in the event of further trouble with Israel, though this may seem a remote possibility at this stage.

King Hussein is the only leader to express outright support for Iraq, inviting attacks not from radical Arabs, but from the Arab states which he expects to gain when he returns his support for Iraq, may become available immediately. He is reported to have drawn a comprehensive Middle East map, showing the Jordanian role in the Arab world.

Informal sources in Beirut believe the plan has been endorsed by Saudi Arabia and Mr. Yasir Arafat, Palestinian leader.

African Protestants pick leader from Madagascar

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Oct. 7

The All Africa Conference of Churches, which links most of the Protestant churches in Africa, today appointed the Rev Victor Mawhood, a Ghanaian, as its new general secretary.

The post has been occupied for more than a year by acting general secretary, the Rev. Enoch Anderson, a Ghanaian. The last substantive holder of the post was Canon Burgess Carr, a Liberian Anglican, who was known as a forthright defender of the church's support for African liberation movements.

He clashed with the Kenyan Government, when he likened Kenya under the late President Kenyatta to Ethiopia, before the revolution which overthrew the Emperor.

Canon Carr's engagement

was terminated last year after he had failed to return from a year's sabbatical.

Mr. Mawhood, aged 45, is married with three children. He is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar—the largest Protestant Church in Madagascar. He has been working at the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, and graduated in theology and sociology at Geneva University.

Speaking after he had been chosen by the general committee of the conference from a short list of four candidates, he said he regarded his immediate task as one of restoring the confidence of member churches in the conference—which had suffered during what has been described as its leadership crisis.

He endorsed the churches' support for African liberation movements.

Mr Trudeau told his plans endanger federal system

From John Best
Ottawa, Oct. 7

Mr. Joe Clark, leader of the Conservative Opposition in the Canadian Commons, has warned Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, that his constitutional plans could lead to the destruction of the federal system in Canada.

"No proposal in my time here has alarmed me more than the proposal before us now," Mr. Clark told the House of Commons today in a debate on a controversial Government resolution to bring home from Westminster Canada's Constitution under the British North America (BNA) Act.

He called Mr. Trudeau the "last of the great Canadian colonialists" because he had mapped plans for "sneaking off to London for constitutional amendments."

"He is relying on the British

to accept his will more easily than Canadians."

Mr. Jean Chrétien, the Justice Minister, who spoke for the Government, said that by bringing home the Constitution, the Liberal Government will create a "momentum" for further change.

"Once we have succeeded in bringing home our Constitution with an amending formula, we will have created a mechanism to permit constitutional change as and when necessary," Mr. Chrétien said.

Mr. Chrétien argued that there was no hard and fast rule that the federal Government should obtain the consent of Canada's ten provinces before asking the British Parliament to amend the BNA Act. [The Opposition contends that such fundamental changes should not be attempted without the concurrence of the provinces.]

First Atlantic flight standing on top of plane

From Dennis Trevinn
Belgrade, Oct. 7

Goose Bay, Newfoundland, Oct. 7.—Herr Jaroslav Wagner, a West German car dealer, has made history by crossing the Atlantic standing on top of an aircraft.

Mr. Wagner, aged 41, touched down in this tiny town after an eight-hour flight from Greenland.

Perched on top of a two-engine De Havilland Doves, just behind the cockpit, Herr Wagner was fastened on with belts, straps, and reported being anxious.

Polish party ushers in pluralism

From Dennis Trevinn
Belgrade, Oct. 7

The leadership changes and resolutions of this week's central committee meeting in Warsaw prove more than merely a declaration of good intent: the Polish party is reforming itself will be bringing an unprecedented pluralism into single-party rule.

The central committee debate which ended in the early hours of yesterday morning after 21 hours and 35 minutes of discussion, set as its first task moral and political renewal and the forging of new social partnerships by the party within the framework of socialism. The party's leading role still cannot be challenged, but inside these limits, the new image now is emerging.

The guarantees which the communist Polish United Workers' Party has promised against arbitrary political and economic measures mean that the party is undertaking a new role rather than a new one. The party's leading role still cannot be challenged, but inside these limits, the new image now is emerging.

Muzorewa demands moving men to S Africa

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Oct. 7

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, former Rhodesian Prime Minister, strongly denied today that he or his United African National Council party had been involved in the moving 5,000 former auxiliary forces from this country to South Africa for military training.

The Bishop was replying to a statement by the weekend by Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, who said that Muzorewa had organized a "secret army."

He also denied that UANC disbanders were fomenting breaches of law and order particularly in the Salisburi State prosecutors announced today that they planned action against Mr. Edg Tekere, Minister of Manpower for breaking bail terms in interview with BBC television.

He is accused of murdering Mr. Adams, an African and a condition of his bail was that he should not discuss the case with the press.



Carter promise to Nigeria on Namibian independence

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Oct. 7

President Carter today sought to offset Nigerian criticism of the West's failure to bring independence to Namibia (South-West Africa) by promising "a sustained commitment" to the development there of a government based on majority rule and racial non-discrimination.

In the United Nations General Assembly in New York yesterday, President Jimmy Carter said his country would "no longer tolerate the provocations by South Africa of the dilatory tactics of her allies in the Western block with regard to self-determination and majority rule for Namibia."

Welcoming him to talks at the White House today, President Carter said he hoped to see the consummation of his Administration's efforts to bring independence to Namibia in the "early" future.

President Shagari said the United States and Nigeria must dedicate our best efforts to the achievement of similar solutions for that in Zimbabwe in Namibia.

The two leaders were also expected to discuss the war between Iraq and Iran and trade and technology. Nigeria now provides the United States with much of its imported oil.

Congressman in Moscow to improve relations

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Oct. 7

The first American member of Congress to visit the Soviet Union since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan began talks in Moscow today to see how Soviet-American relations could be improved.

Mr. Stephen Solarz, a Democratic Representative from New York and a member of the House foreign affairs committee, said on his arrival here last night that he was hoping to find out what moves the Russians thought they themselves should make to improve their relations with the United States. It is a year since Senator Joseph Biden, the last Congressman to visit Moscow, was here.

Congressman in Moscow to improve relations

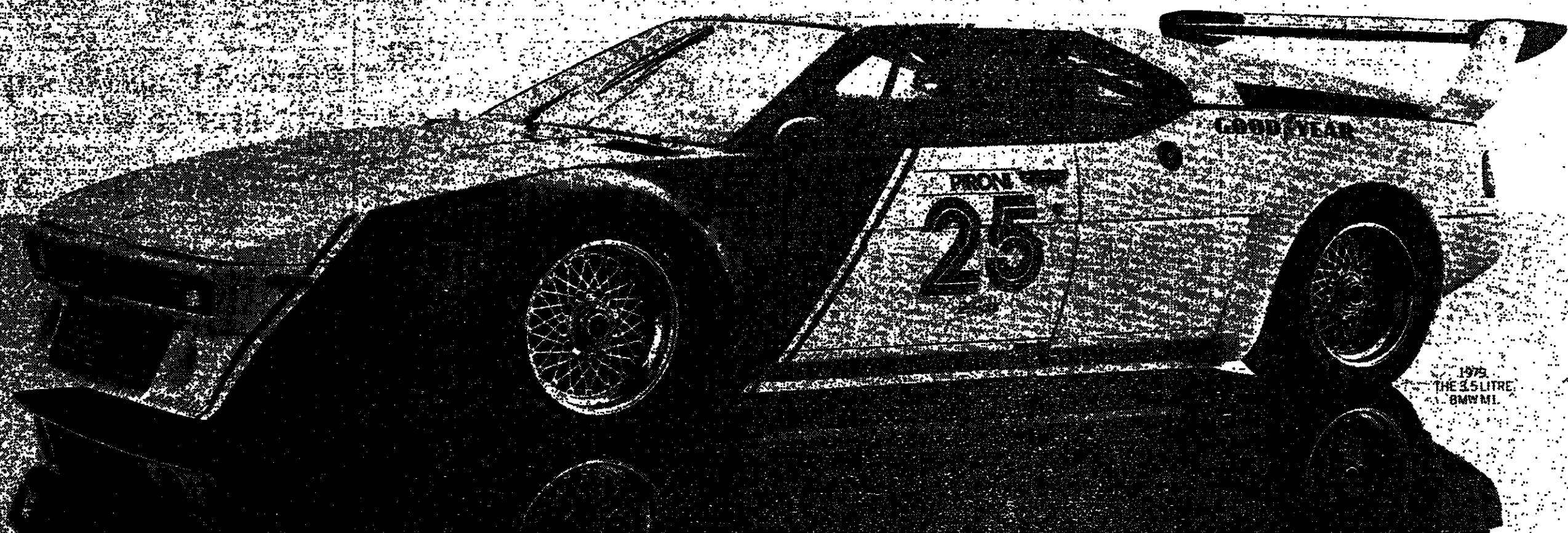
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1978
THE 3.5 LITRE
BMW CSL



1979
THE 3.5 LITRE
BMW M1



1980
THE 3.5 LITRE
BMW 635CSi

**BMW'S RACING ENGINE IS NOW AVAILABLE TO A WIDER PUBLIC.
BUT NOT MUCH WIDER.**

The engine in question has quite a pedigree.

In the CSL coupé it helped BMW win the European Touring Car Championship four years in a row.

It was a performance, however, only really appreciated by racing drivers like Niki Lauda, Jacky Ickx and Hans Stuck, who discovered how, with this engine, they could beat even 5 and 7 litre rivals.

Then, for the M1 racing car, the engine was developed still further. So, ultimately, it could produce 800 bhp from its six cylinders.

It first raced last year in the Pro-Car Championships. But, again, this was a

pleasure restricted to racing drivers like Clay Regazzoni, Nelson Piquet, Jacques Laffite and Alan Jones.

It seemed, however, that it was selfish to restrict such an engine just to the race track.

So a 140 mph road version of the engine was developed for the 635CSi coupé.

And its high speed performance is now accompanied by a remarkable low speed docility. If asked to, the vehicle will trickle along without protest at 1500 rpm in any gear, and then pull away cleanly and strongly as soon as you open the throttle. But its racing origins clearly show

when the car then is flicked, flat-out in second or third, through S-bends so close and difficult that they demand the very best of car and driver.

The 6 Series Check Control System ensures that the car is able to give exactly that: just press the test button before you drive off and seven key functions of the car are electronically checked.

As for the driver, this BMW's biomechanical design makes the most of his skills.

The driving position, for example, can be optimised by adjusting the seat for height, tilt, reach and rake.

And the controls and instruments are carefully sited to minimise the time gap

between reaction and action.

All in all, rather than being a coupé version of a saloon car, the 635 is very much a car bred directly out of BMW's race track experience. (Witness the fact that a 635 has already won the first rounds of the 1980 European Touring Car Championship at Monza and Vallelunga.)

Alas, it's an experience no more than 595 people in Britain will be able to enjoy in 1980.

Our apologies: but we can't make our 635CSi any faster.



THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

Football

By Norman Fox . . .
Football Correspondent

Today's fixtures

[illegible]

By Clive White.

West Ham move in three stages to second place

By Gerald Sinstadt. Cardiff 9.
West Ham 1.

An attendance of 20,402 at Upton Park last night was the largest since the start of last Wednesday's European Cup Winners' Cup tie. The sale in the stadium was most successful, the decline in goal scoring, where West Ham only got five past Castilla, they managed only two.

Cardiff C.I. but that was enough to move them into second place in the second division, a point behind the leaders.

Cardiff, deprived by injury of Lewis and Dwyer, clearly took a pragmatic view of their chances, with little to be gained in the swagman's role behind a defence marking man-for-man. In the early stages, a looseball from the Cardiff half slipped down the right, Pake and Devonshire drifted into space on the left, and

rewarded when Kitchen, protruding from a crowd, sent the ball into the net. When a goal was ruled out for handball, West Ham moved from the defensive to the offensive and Devonshire's centre was high and low and Neighbour still in the air. Cardiff were forced to concede, his first of the season.

From that point, the emphasis of Cardiff's attack was on the wings. Cardiff's new captain, chairman, Ransom, in particular, began to take up more advanced supporting positions, and the Cardiff defence was not so much penalized as the scene of a rather immaculate catch. Parker, though, was a superb defender, and Cardiff's number. Groiter, a former West Ham goalkeeper, a Groiter had the admirable capacity to make a goal.

When he was beaten by Martin, a header from a Devonshire corner.

The game ended with a dramatic finish, with a Devonshire

to Maria, with a driving head, and Demositive, with a crisp shot, threatened to capitalise in the first catchment of his opponent's defence. On the outside after Graves and Hughes switched defensive banks but Bonds should have gone back to the half over the bar from five yards.

To Cardini's credit, their pre-occupation with defence was not a handicap. Even though the supply lines were thinly stretched, they played for most of the game with three men at a time. They were not out of their feet. They left almost

[illegible]

After 75 minutes, English overtook the lead and played a free in the penalty area, and after Middlebrough player brought him down with a careless tackle, English was converted.

McGuinness had a hand in Middlebrough's first goal, a 20-yard free, before 22 minutes.

McGuinness scored after 22 minutes, a 30-yard shot. Middlebrough's leading Yugoslav, fired spectacularly from 25 yards, but the referee lifted both hands with expectant ease, punched the ball into the net.

Middlebrough's defence proved the more fragile and flattened again three minutes later. Platt

threw a diagonal pass from the left wing, missed the back completely, falling in English for a goal which was an example of compression. Larsson, who had compressed the defence, continued to be a danger.

McGuinness will be left again in touch on Saturday.

Line-up: 1. McGuinness; 2. Pinner; 3. McGuinness; 4. McGuinness; 5. Pinner; 6. McGuinness; 7. McGuinness; 8. McGuinness; 9. McGuinness; 10. McGuinness; 11. McGuinness; 12. McGuinness; 13. McGuinness; 14. McGuinness; 15. McGuinness; 16. McGuinness; 17. McGuinness; 18. McGuinness; 19. McGuinness; 20. McGuinness; 21. McGuinness; 22. McGuinness; 23. McGuinness; 24. McGuinness; 25. McGuinness; 26. McGuinness; 27. McGuinness; 28. McGuinness; 29. McGuinness; 30. McGuinness; 31. McGuinness; 32. McGuinness; 33. McGuinness; 34. McGuinness; 35. McGuinness; 36. McGuinness; 37. McGuinness; 38. McGuinness; 39. McGuinness; 40. McGuinness; 41. McGuinness; 42. McGuinness; 43. McGuinness; 44. McGuinness; 45. McGuinness; 46. McGuinness; 47. McGuinness; 48. McGuinness; 49. McGuinness; 50. McGuinness; 51. McGuinness; 52. McGuinness; 53. McGuinness; 54. McGuinness; 55. McGuinness; 56. McGuinness; 57. McGuinness; 58. McGuinness; 59. McGuinness; 60. McGuinness; 61. McGuinness; 62. McGuinness; 63. 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By John Nicholls

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ONLY Hartford pass scored through Mosley's legs at the end of a long diagonal run after receiving an accurate pass from Hartford. This particular pass was only one of a series from Hartford who functioned well in spite of being closely marked by Lawrenson.

By Richard Streeton.

[illegible]

By Richard Strator

[illegible]

Zimbabwe face

[illegible]

- Motor racing

Paris, Oct. 7—The protracted struggle for control of formula one Grand Prix racing took another turn today with the announcement that an official world championship will be held next year. The constructors run a private competition.

The International Motor Sport Association (I.M.S.A.), the governing body, voted here to go ahead with plans for the 1958 world championship. The Constructors' Association (F.O.C.A.) is said to be considering organizing a parallel world drivers' championship.

F.I.S.A. decided also to set up circuits which host such irregular events.

Manufacturers' selling parts in these illegal international races will be allowed to join national or international commissions or bodies of F.I.A. member countries.

The motion was adopted, but dissent, but the British and American delegates, and the Belgian's delegate. Last time, it was his country's desire to have a world drivers' championship. But, he said, he had to study the legal position.

A motion adopted at a plenary session, which was exceptionally open to the press, said that any participant to a formula one private championship would be immediately suspended or excluded from all competitions organized by the Federation Internationale Automobile (FIA).

Boxing

The British Boxing Board of Control will begin their inquiry into the allegations following the fatal attack on Minter's world title defence at Vembley on September 25 at their London offices today.

The promoters, Harry Lennox and Mickie Duff, have been called to give evidence.

Sale of drink in the arena, which has been a contributory factor to the outbreak of people throwing which followed Minter's defeat in less than two hours, has been ruled illegal in the United States, the man who beat him, had to be hurried from the ring by his manager, who said he was in contact that he would not be back. The evidence the board collected today and in the next few days will be handed to a committee.

Fallen, who retained his European light-middlesweight title here last night when he stopped the challenger, will be in the ring for the round of their scheduled 12-round bout.

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Paris, Oct. 7.—Marlan Ben
Yozoslawia retained his Eur

The stylish Frenchman was no match for the stocky, hard-hitting Yugoslav, who won the fight by Randskov, gave Usuda, a Denmark-Kalje the hardest contest. Bengas had Warstedt down in the second and fourth rounds, with left-right combinations. Although Warstedt came back and tried to stung it out in the middle of the fight he was unable to withstand the punishing blows of Yugoslav landsman, who gave him a hard band.

There was a clash of heads in the fifth and Warstedt emerged with a deep cut over his left eye.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE

By John Hennessy

Peter Jacobsen is the dark horse in the field of 12 for the Summery match-play tournament at Wentworth this week. A man little known over here though he has played with enough distinction at home in the United States to pocket 150,000 dollars in prize money this year. Even so, as he honestly admits, he owes his appearance here at least in part to his association with the organizers of the tournament, International Management Group, the branchaid of Mark McCormack. He regards himself as "12th favourite". "That at least is what he says, but not, I suspect, what he thinks."

Peter Jacobsen, the 24-year-old son of a "full-blooded Norwegian" who emigrated to the United States in 1909, turns out to be a young man of many attributes. Not only does he play golf rather well, he is also attractive, charming and, when the occasion offers, a character with the gift of mimicry of more famous players. There is nothing of the brashness that sometimes makes Americans a little hard to take on first acquaintance. Given a fair wind this week and attentive television cameramen, he is unlikely to remain an unknown by the time the tournament ends on Sunday.

There is something of an

American clone. Like so many of his fellows, tall, slim, good-looking, fair-skinned and unduly educated, he took business administration at Oregon University, where he spent the summer vacations, not on the beaches, but loading trucks for a plumbing supply company. "It was very heavy work, which paid only \$1 an hour, but I was getting \$1 in your money these days." That experience, he says, brought two advantages. It improved his physical condition, and it recognizes the value of a dollar.

He is not exactly a stranger to the French scene. He has

Peter Jacobson: growing faith in himself.

Amateur championships and two PGA championships. He did well in all three, but the big prizes eluded him and so, therefore, did the big publicity. The Amateur was at St. Andrews in 1976, the year in which he had taken the pretzeling of coming over privately for a few practice rounds over the old links. "I was a little nervous, but there was something of a cultural shock, as it has been for so many others, but he learned to love it, as he has," says the Frenchman.

The fifth round by Alexis Godard, the French champion, his first experience of match-play gave him the following year, 1977, a new sense of direction. He was in St. George's for the PGA championship, through his connection with the spouses. "Colgate, and I," he says, "was a different kind of shock, because he thought that the St. Andrews type was a little bit different. Now he had discovered a link that was even more difficult, and

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Western Australia Open at Perth, from a field that included Ballesteros, Graham, Pan and Norman. He was the only one to limit his play in the last few weeks he has won the Buick Open and finished second, a week later, in the BC Open. He lies 21st in the United States money list.

"He has an attractive draw in this week's tournament, against first Pyle and, assuming he survives, Ballesteros. If you can't beat them, you can't beat them," he says. "I've beaten some good players." I would not entirely put it past him, certainly not after Bill Rogers's victory last year.

GOLD

Michel Trochu, who I

Two brides in the first 40 holes set the Scottish record their way. The Scotch turned in a 36 and under, while the other two, Miss Thompson, and Miss Morris, Cup golfer, Miss Thompson, made an early cut at 38 and under. Miss Thompson, a 10,000 by opening up a 36 and under, led the pack. The other two, Miss Morris, and Miss Thompson, made an early cut at 38 and under. Miss Thompson, a 10,000 by opening up a 36 and under, led the pack. The other two, Miss Morris, and Miss Thompson, made an early cut at 38 and under.

Rugby League

By Keith Macklin

The fratricidal warfare between the professional, and amateur players, and the various international unions, was far fiercer than I had anticipated, especially after the announcement, yesterday that the parent Rugby League would not accept the new code, and that the new union would be set up to play under the laws of the British Amateur Football Association at centre forward. I was told that the new code would be administered by the Rugby League, and that the new union would be set up to play under the laws of the British Amateur Football Association at centre forward. I was told that the new code would be administered by the Rugby League, and that the new union would be set up to play under the laws of the British Amateur Football Association at centre forward.

Richard Owen charts the possible effects of the policies of the superpowers over the war in The Gulf and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

The changing face of the Middle East

The coup in Turkey, the war in the Gulf and the invasion of Afghanistan are not isolated and unrelated events, but part of a still evolving pattern which could lead to discernible shifts in the balance of power in the Middle East. That, at any rate, is the view of some of those who closely monitor and observe the strategic and political alignments of the area of the Middle East, although the final shape is far from clear.

Most vitally affected are the Americans, who have long been worried by the implications of the hard and inescapable fact that the United States lies about 7,000 miles away from the heart of the region. The Gulf, the Nixon doctrine, as evolved by President Nixon and his Secretary of State, Dr Henry Kissinger, was based on the realization that America was no longer able to police those parts of the world where it had what it considered to be vital defence and economic interests. The essence of the Nixon doctrine was that responsibility for the defence of local powers should be handed over to local powers friendly to, and supplied by, the United States.

In the Middle East, where Britain's withdrawal from the Gulf had left a vacuum, the fulcrum of this policy was Iran. Under the Shah, Iran in effect acted as policeman of the Gulf in American interests. The fall of the Shah in February 1979 and his replacement by a fervently Islamic regime was the first of two major events which pulled the ground from under the feet of American policy makers and placed in question all previously held assumptions about the behaviour of local powers in the region.

The second event was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan 10 months later. The Russians, perhaps sensing that the ripples of the Islamic resurgence could easily swamp Afghanistan, moved to secure by military means an area which they had always regarded as being within their legitimate sphere of influence. The move brought them to within 300 miles of the Gulf, and raised fears that Moscow was about to take advantage of the new regional instability, and America's lack of reach to extend its own rule. Iran was assumed to be a prime Soviet target, and long-forgotten Tzarist ambitions to secure access to the warm water ports of the Gulf were

dusted off in the chancelleries of the West. These theories are now beginning to wear a little thin. America is still going ahead with plans for a "rapid deployment force" designed to bridge the 7,000 mile gap and give Washington the capacity to obstruct any aggressive Soviet moves in the Gulf. The force only exists on paper, however, and is likely to remain on paper for some time. In any case, as the United States deputy Secretary of State, Mr Warren Christopher recently observed, the Russians have some 80,000 troops tied down in a "very difficult" war in Afghanistan, and are not likely to want to take on similar or even worse problems in Iran.

This does not prevent their seeking influence in Tehran, even apparently to the extent of having previously armed Iraq—of delivering Iranian military aid. But all offers of Soviet help have been rudely rebuffed. What seems to be happening, in fact, is that the local powers, including not only Iran and Afghanistan but also Turkey and Iraq, are increasingly defying both the superpowers, and making it extremely difficult for either Moscow or Washington to exert their sphere of influence in the Middle East. On the other hand, Turkey—on the other hand, which has a large Muslim population—is not untouched by the Islamic revival, and is in any case sensitive to suggestions that "the Islamic American domination." The United States-Turkish agreement on NATO bases and "listening

posts" in March this year was concluded very much in Turkish terms. Ankara is also quite capable of playing "the Moscow card". The Americans have not forgotten the visit to Ankara of the Soviet Chief of State, General Gorbachev, two years ago, which together with Soviet loan offers, gave rise to talk of a Turkish-Russian connection. The military coup in Turkey offers some comfort to the West, inasmuch as the generals now in power in Ankara are both democratically minded and sympathetic to NATO, and may even patch up Turkey's quarrel with Greece which could soon be its partner again in NATO. But the social, political and religious tensions which have torn Turkey apart are still just below the surface, and could erupt to form yet another pocket of chronic instability in a volatile region.

The danger now is that the two great powers, faced with increasingly fractious local states, may be more rather than less tempted to intervene militarily to shore up their interests. This is what happened in Afghanistan. It could happen in the Gulf, if the war between Iran and Iraq were to spread and threaten the oil supplies on which the western economies depend. Given that the local Gulf states are not yet in a position to provide adequate protection, the question is whether the Soviet Union would react to any United States military move, and if so in what way.

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Bernard Levin

It seems from official statements made in Peking, that the trial of Madame Mao and her fellow-members of the Gang of Four, together with a number of other, mainly military, figures is about to take place. By now, therefore, the full account will have been written and the participants thoroughly rehearsed. The judges will have been told what sentences are to be imposed, and what terms of imprisonment are to be used in sentencing them. A defence counsel will be practising the catalogue of abuse they are to hurl at their clients, and the defendants themselves will be practising their defence, at least daily and possibly often. The recitation of their confessions, comparatively unpractised in this sort of drama, perhaps, will be a minor part of the proceedings. The judges will be making no risks of a hitch on opening night: no foreign journalists are to be allowed to attend, and the court will be filled with Chinese. The defendants are being tried in the accused's own language, Chinese. The trial is being held in the city of Beijing, in the city of the accused. The trial is being held in the city of Beijing, in the city of the accused.



This shoddy charade

do I know why the Chinese rulers bothered to send Mr Zeng to explain that the prosecution had made a request for a special court, and that the request had been granted? But that, though an apparently insoluble puzzle, is not really important. What is important is the fact that the Chinese rulers are about to stage a show trial, and that the show trial is a shoddy charade. The trial is being held in the city of Beijing, in the city of the accused. The trial is being held in the city of Beijing, in the city of the accused.

wish to think, even if not speak, for themselves, have vanished from sight in that huge land without their names being known outside, or indeed, apart from the inevitable knowledge of a handful of relatives and neighbours, inside either? So, it is to be darkness at noon for China now, when not even Brezhnev would dare to stage such wicked and shoddy theatricals any longer. And I dare say that somewhere in the western world they will find reviewers to give the show a good notice, backs who will declare that Madame Mao and her accomplices were fairly tried, justly convicted and fittingly punished. As I say, the Chinese rulers have learned all too well the lesson of the trial (though we may not see that rule relaxed in favour of a back or two), but there will no doubt be an official account of it, which will be quite sufficient.

Besides, even if the trial of Madame Mao is universally condemned (and let me not fall into the trap of thinking of her and her associates as freedom-loving dissidents, for they clearly repudiated Maoism as its maddest and most implacably cruel, and the only reason they are going on trial is that they lost the power struggle that followed Mao's death), the feeling behind the trial is not that the rulers of China still arm, support and praise the remnants of the PRC regime in Cambodia? I suppose I have myself answered the question I asked: yes, the world must indeed go through this filthy nonsense again. Because China's present rulers are not willing to denounce Mao for his crimes (it only became more of them participated in the crimes at one period or another), they intend to go through the ritual prosecution of those who at the end were closest to him in thought and deed, because they cannot admit that China was ruled by a Gang of Five, they are to prosecute a Gang of Four. And the horrible and idiot nature of the judicial proceedings involved may be deduced from the original accusations levelled at Madame Mao when she was accused: that she was a private showings of *The Sound of Music*, and liked her melon hot.

agriculture is remarkably resilient and well matched to our changeable temperate climate. Only the most extreme events bring it to its knees. For the rest, the dire predictions of some farmers when a few weeks of rain or drought strikes have to be taken with a pinch of salt. Not until the harvest is in can a judgment be made of the real consequences of the weather, and only rarely are these clearly identifiable. Another feature that stands out is the fact that the fluctuations from year to year seldom balance out. A poor year is rarely followed by another, and often a bumper year comes along in a year or two to make amends. Hardly ever are farmers faced with a long succession of good or bad years—just a fascinating mixture of different results in which the weather plays an important but mysterious part.



Iranian troops with anti-aircraft guns push through a crowded street in Tehran during an Iraqi bombing raid. Whoever wins the war, the Middle East will never be the same.

A bumper crop, and never mind about the weather

W. J. Burroughs on how agriculture copes with our changeable climate

This year's bumper crop has confounded certain traditional wisdom about the effects of the weather on agricultural yields and the gloomy predictions made earlier in the year. The exceptionally dry spell during April and May and then the cold wet period during June and July caused worried farmers to voice fears of a lasting damage. The warmer weather since August brought crops on apace and the occasional bouts of heavy rain have not seriously delayed the harvest. All this goes to show that significant prolonged fluctuations in the weather British agriculture is robust and capable of shaking off all but the worst extremes of the weather.

Clearly the crop yield must be a consequence of the weather during the growing season. But the way in which the combination of variations in temperature, rainfall, humidity and sunshine affect both plant growth and disease is complex. So, within wide margins, the net effects of these variations appear largely to cancel out one another. Examination of the national statistics for the yields for cereals and root crops going back to 1884 shows that the year-to-year variations cannot be related closely to parallel changes in the weather. But, this is not always easy to see, especially in the last 35 years, as yields have risen sharply. This may not agree with local experience as country-wide figures disguise variations from one part of the country to another. This is important as it is not uncommon for a bad summer in, say, the southeast to be matched by better than average conditions in the north and west. Despite the limitations in using national figures the mes-

age is clear. The only years which do stand out unequivocally from the normal fluctuations for the principal crops are the hot dry years 1947, 1975 and 1976. All the cold wet seasons are lost in the natural variability of agricultural output in more normal years. While certain years have had notably low figures for individual crops (eg wheat in 1963), across the board, even the worst years, like 1954, 1922 and 1903 do not stick out. Nor do the earlier hot dry years of 1921 and 1911 show up clearly. Not until we go back to 1879—before the standard statistics

were available—do we find such a combination of cold and wet so bad that it had an outstanding impact on agriculture. This year, which marked the nadir of the first acute phase of the great agricultural depression of the last quarter of the 19th century, far exceeded anything experienced so far in this century. Between November 1878 and January 1880 there were 15 consecutive months with well below normal temperatures, while April to September had well above normal rainfall. After a savage winter the entire growing season of 1879 was an unbroken succession of

cold, sunless drenched weeks. There was no relief to slow crops to recuperate. In Ireland where official statistics go back to the 1840s general agricultural productivity was over a third below normal and in England the wheat harvest barely exceeded half the normal value. This damage, coming as it did at a time of rising imports, and declining prices, was a principal cause for the setting up of the Royal Commission on Agricultural Depression. What this exceptional year and the subsequent statistics confirm is that cold wet weather, if not sustained through-

out the growing season, has only limited impact on yields. But that does not deny that bad weather during harvesting may lead to poor quality and a smaller crop. Bad weather gathered in at great effort and requiring costly drying before storing. Where the yield does not recover is when prolonged drought and wet weather produce an early light crop. While the harvest may be gathered in under ideal conditions, the damage caused by shortage of water and then great heat has an irreversible effect. The blazing summers of 1975 and 1976 are the examples of this.

when both cereals and root crops suffered major setbacks with yields generally down by about 20 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. The potatoes, which were planted in 1974 and 1975, were marked by heavy yields. The one example of variable weather having a major impact is the extraordinary year of 1947. Here the combination of an exceptionally cold, snowy winter, when nearly all the winter wheat was killed, followed by a record wet spring and then a memorably hot dry summer, hit all sectors of agriculture. There is no other year which has strung together such a variety of extremes in a single growing season. So, the general conclusion which must be drawn from both this year's bumper crop and the results of the last hundred years, is that British

agriculture is remarkably resilient and well matched to our changeable temperate climate. Only the most extreme events bring it to its knees. For the rest, the dire predictions of some farmers when a few weeks of rain or drought strikes have to be taken with a pinch of salt. Not until the harvest is in can a judgment be made of the real consequences of the weather, and only rarely are these clearly identifiable. Another feature that stands out is the fact that the fluctuations from year to year seldom balance out. A poor year is rarely followed by another, and often a bumper year comes along in a year or two to make amends. Hardly ever are farmers faced with a long succession of good or bad years—just a fascinating mixture of different results in which the weather plays an important but mysterious part.

LONDON DIARY

In line now for master of the ratings?

I learn that this year's Dimbleby Lecture on BBC Television is to be given by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls and our longest-serving judge. The prestigious lecture, created in memory of the late Richard Dimbleby and now in its ninth year, is to be broadcast live from the Royal Society of Arts on November 20. The lectures have established themselves as a controversial and newsworthy soapbox for eminent speakers, who in the past have included Lord Annan, Sir Robert Mark, Jack Jones and Lord Rothschild. The standard was well maintained last year by Roy Jenkins, who in a dissertation entitled "Home Thoughts from Abroad" floated his ideas on the need for a centre party and dropped tantalizing hints that he might return to British political life. Denning, now aged 81, ought to be good value too. He has chosen as his theme "The Misuse of Power, and he ought to have some interesting things to say, particularly in view of some of the cases involving trade unionists he has presided over. Nor is he known for hiding

his light and his opinions under the customary ermine cloak of judicial discretion. Last year he published *The Discipline of Law*, in which he freely discussed the reasons for his judgments in a number of his more noteworthy cases. There were mutterings around the Inns of Court at the time that no one but Denning could have got away with such a thing. He may be the trade union movement's least favourite judge, after his rulings have been overturned by the Lords on nine consecutive occasions in the past two years, but he does not appear to mind in the slightest. Having become a best-selling author at the age of 80, he is now set to become a star of the small screen at 81. It wouldn't surprise me if he makes a record next.

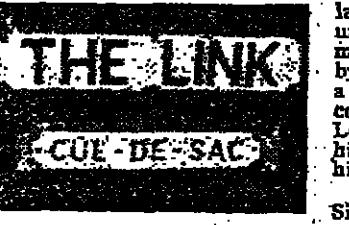
Auntie Bleep

Listeners around the world to the BBC's external services who hear a high-pitched shrill bleep in the background of their programmes will have every right to feel concerned. But it will not be some unfriendly foreign power trying to jam the news from London; the hideous noise will indicate that a studio manager is under attack. The Corporation has provided a dozen 120-decibel alarms for use by female studio staff who

work on the night shift at the external services headquarters at Bush House. The shrill alarm, produce such a deafening blast—staff are advised not to let them off near the ear—that they can penetrate the soundproofing of studios, allowing the world to know that an evil deed is being perpetrated. The reason for their introduction, according to the BBC's house journal *Ariel*, is not a sudden increase in wicked acts in the dark corners of Bush House but the relentless march of new technology. An electronic distribution system that flashes messages around the building has done away with most of the messengers and secretaries who used to tramp the corridors at night. Any unwelcome intruders therefore are less likely to be detected. The blast from the cigarette-lighter-sized alarms is guaranteed to make any intruder stop in his tracks, but their real purpose is to bring the security staff running.

Shaping up

When I was a lad, tourists in London were predominantly composed of earnest middle-aged Americans, well equipped with cameras, guidebooks and planned itineraries. Nowadays Westerners tend to be young, in jeans and oilskins, blocking the pavement and shouting at each other at the top of their voice. What they may well be saying to each other is that they don't know the difference between Tower Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral. To avoid just such confusion, visitors to Parliament Square can now make use of a so-called indicator, a sort of skyline sketch engraved in metal, which is intended to show them the location of the various buildings and monuments they see around them. Yesterday's unveiling of this



latest aid to international understanding was only slightly marred by a heavy shower and by the excited comments of a group of Germans who clearly considered a glimpse of the Lord Mayor of Westminster in his chain of office to be the high spot of their visit. Silver Jubilee Walkway Trust said it was hoped to have five such indicators placed at strategic points; the first, outside Lambeth Palace, was opened last week, and others are scheduled for Jubilee Gardens, next to the Festival Hall, and for Bankside. The fifth location is Tower Bridge, but the City engineer has objected on the grounds that it would obstruct traffic. Another difficulty for the Trust is that the excellent and informative map which it has recently produced is being cold-shouldered by newsagents because, at 35p, it does not afford them a big enough profit.

band of Young Tories are pushing Brighton Rock at 20p a stick with "Maggie for President" written all the way through. It is made, I am told, by a firm owned by the mayor of the rival conference venue, Blackpool. Such is the free market economy. Meanwhile, colleagues at Brighton have spotted evidence of class-distinction in the town's conference centre, which last month hosted the Trades Union Congress. Between the arrival of the Tories shoe cleaning machines were installed in the gentlemen's cloakrooms.

Glad tidings

With little more than two months to Christmas the news from Fine Art Development at Burton-on-Trent—the biggest art and produce fair in Europe—suggests that recession or not cash registers up and down the country are beginning to make happy long-playing noises. The company is also distributing 50 million charity cards; the front runner, and this year's likeliest best seller, is one ordered by the Save the Children Fund. It depicts children of many nationalities bearing gifts round Christ in his crib. So far more than half a million copies have been sent out.

The sale of cards and related items such as gift wrappings and tree decorations are said to be well ahead of last year, even taking inflation into account. From a region whose industrial life on several fronts is almost moribund, this news from the brewery town presents some pre-season cheer. Leaders of the campaign have learned that, thanks to their efforts, the City of London Corporation's Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee has abandoned its intention to construct a golf course on Chigwell Park. Plans for a golf course on the site of a golf course have been the exclusive province of grazing cows and ramblers. Besides collecting a petition of over 800 signatures, writing to the Queen, and presenting the City Corporation with a long list of reasons why the environs of Epping Forest

should be left undisturbed, the campaign committee recently staged a "picnic-in" on the disputed ground, at which over 1,000 people dined on sandwiches and ate sandwiches in militant fashion. Forest by-laws forbade them to indulge in any more active form of protest. Mrs Georgina Green, who led the campaign, told me: "We are delighted. The decision to build this golf course was reversed by only one vote, and it still has to be ratified by the Court of Common Council. But we regard it as a great victory for Epping Forest, which we all believe should be left unspoiled."

Off course

A group of protesters in Essex has proved that it is not necessary to detonate explosive devices, kick policemen, or lie down in front of bulldozers to persuade authority to change its mind. The Friends of Epping Forest have saved their beloved woodland from the electronic woodlands of a golf course by holding a mass picnic. Leaders of the campaign have learned that, thanks to their efforts, the City of London Corporation's Epping Forest and Open Spaces Committee has abandoned its intention to construct a golf course on Chigwell Park. Plans for a golf course on the site of a golf course have been the exclusive province of grazing cows and ramblers. Besides collecting a petition of over 800 signatures, writing to the Queen, and presenting the City Corporation with a long list of reasons why the environs of Epping Forest

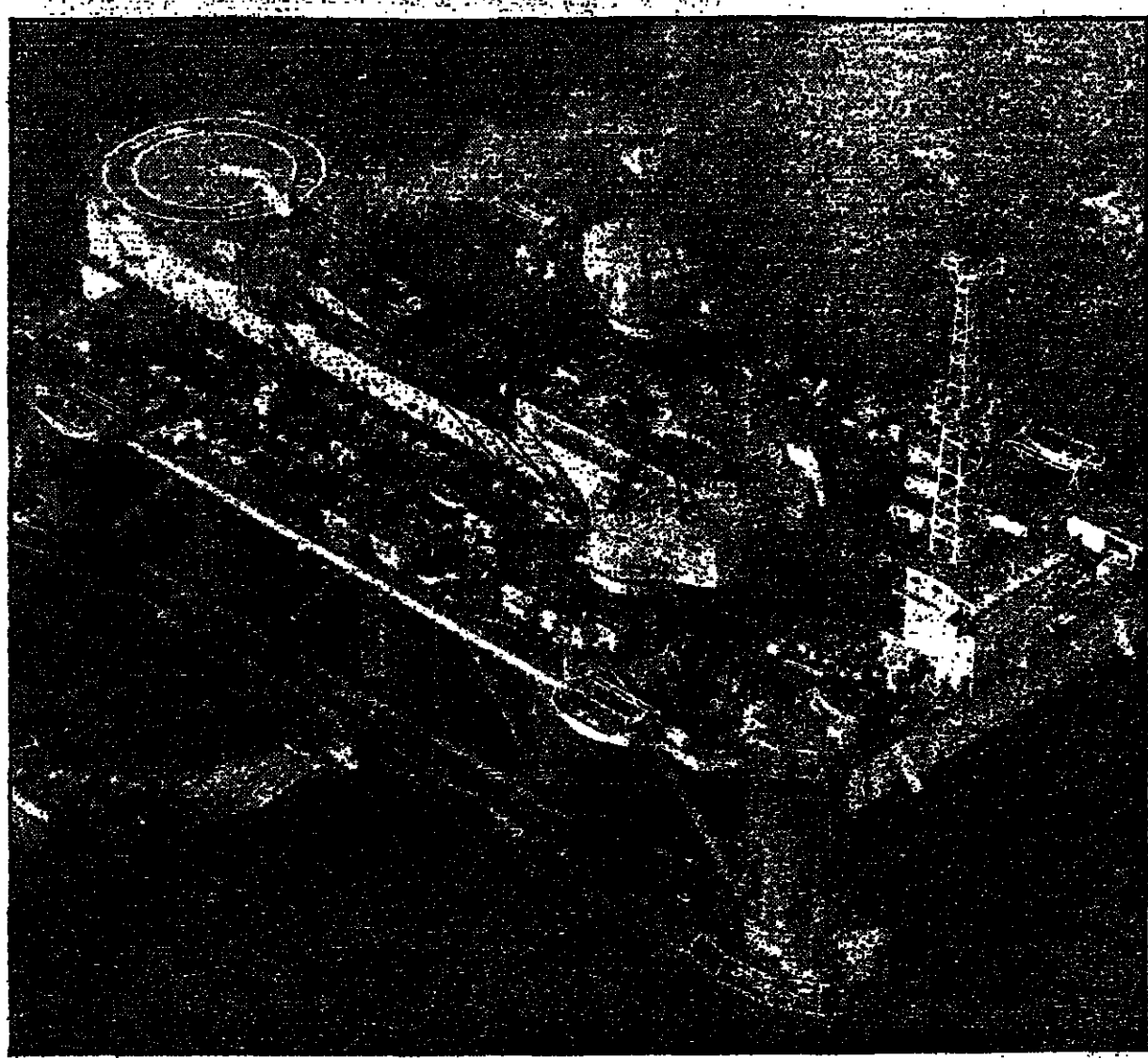
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Humbug too?

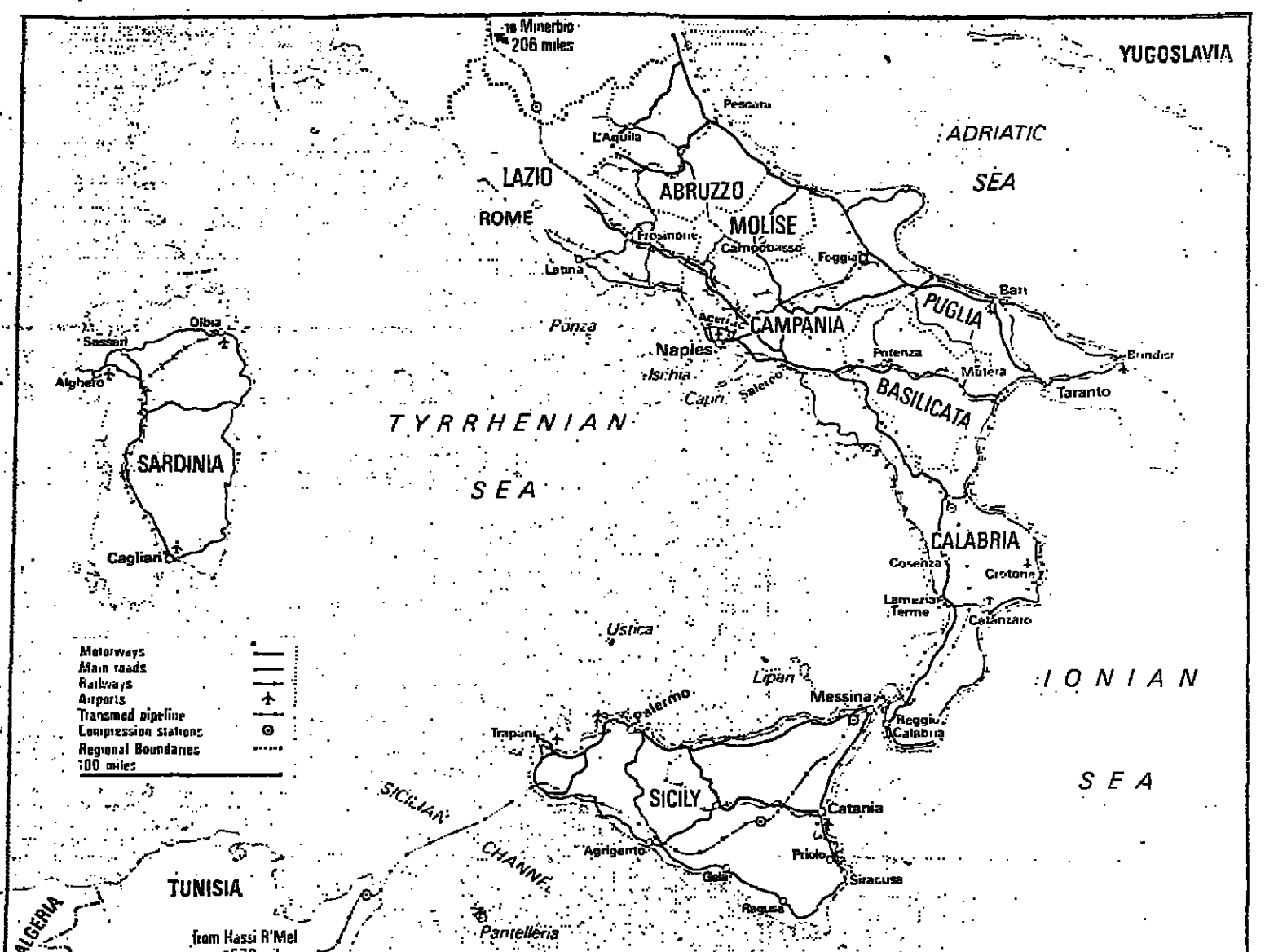
The Prime Minister's name is helping to boost sales of confectionery at the Tory conference in Brighton this week. Yorkshire Young Conservatives are offering cakes of a familiar brown sweetness bearing the slogan "Mrs Thatcher doesn't fudge the issue", while another

Alan Hamilton

THE MEZZOGIORNO



Salerno's Castor Sea laying a section of the Transmed pipeline off the coast of Sicily. Scheduled for completion by the end of 1981, the 1,552-mile pipeline will eventually connect the gas fields of Algeria with the North Sea and the Soviet Union. John Earle discusses its controversial significance for southern Italy on page 111.



Debate rages after failure to reach goals

A chapter is about to close. The 30-year history of efforts to banish poverty from the 20 million inhabitants of the largest underdeveloped region in the European Community. The law regulating the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, the government development agency for the south, expires on December 31.

Should the present system of incentives, with cash grants and more on tax relief, be speeded? Can the labyrinth of bodies dealing with aid be rationalized? Broadly speaking, the Christian Democrats, especially those from the south who have benefited through the flow of funds during the three decades their party has been in power, would like things to remain substantially as they are. The left wants change. Some Communists have called for abolition of the Cassa, and even of the separate Ministry for the Mezzogiorno.

Signor Nicola Capria, Minister for the Mezzogiorno, who is a Socialist, described the Cassa in a recent magazine interview as a "bureaucratic and clientelistic group" which in practice was "outside the control of the central and regional governments. There was confusion about the functions of the Cassa and its associate bodies. He would like to dismantle the Cassa as it is now, and to rationalize it into an industrial promotion agency for the south, while transferring its other functions to the regional governments.

What are the prospects for foreign firms? In April, 1979, the Institute for Assistance in the Development of the South listed 196 wholly or partly-owned foreign companies with plants in the Mezzogiorno which employ nearly 80,000. Over the years a fair number of foreigners have pulled out, though at the institution it is maintaining this was usually owing to extraneous factors such as difficulties of the market or of the company itself, and not to its presence in the Mezzogiorno. Though the form of future incentives is uncertain, the institution—the first door on which a prospective investor should knock—is expanding its offices abroad, and recently opened one in London.

CENTRO DI FORMAZIONE E STUDI PER IL MEZZOGIORNO
CENTRE FOR MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND STUDIES OF SOUTHERN ITALY

FORMEZ MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN THE MEZZOGIORNO: FORMEZ

The policy of special intervention initiated by the Italian State in the fifties has demonstrated that one of the primary conditions for developing the Mezzogiorno, a region in the extreme south of Europe, is the professional training of all those who—in firms, public administrations, or in the cultural and social structures—play a small or large part in its development. When the forces generated by new activities by entrepreneurs began to make themselves felt in the fifties, with new productive development, small and medium-size, it also appeared necessary to begin to assist the Mezzogiorno to equip itself with a "skilled" managerial class culturally and technically capable of making the new southern industries competitive on the domestic and international markets. It is towards this that FORMEZ is working. The name being an abbreviation for "Formazione Mezzogiorno" (Training in the Mezzogiorno area). With this in view, the Training and Study Centre for the Mezzogiorno has been in existence for the last fifteen years. This institute is devoted to training and perfecting the professional and managerial abilities of entrepreneurs, directors and officials working in the southern region in private enterprises or in the public administration. FORMEZ operates through study courses, specialized seminars and conventions. Since 1955, the number of those taking part in the training activities of FORMEZ is about 36,000. Some of the programmes carried out by FORMEZ are now described in brief outline:

MANAGERIAL TRAINING
In initiating this programme, FORMEZ proposes to offer all small and medium-sized industries in southern Italy constructive opportunities regarding specific problems of a managerial and organizational character, such as: marketing, finance and control, management, personnel, industrial relations. The programme is being developed for individual enterprises interested in restructuring and reconversion processes, or requiring to implement plans for expansion and increasing employment.

P.M.A.
This is a training project oriented towards the entrepreneur in small and medium-sized firms and carried out at a local base. The seminars and courses are being developed on "productive" lines which involve the entrepreneurs in analyses of actual cases deriving from the enterprises of the participants themselves. The programme has reintroduced consolidated business experiences in terms of the Italian context.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES
It is intended to facilitate the introduction into the southern regions of technological knowledge of products and/or processes, through advanced training schemes for groups of small and medium-sized enterprises, and when the object of offering the Management opportunities for technological innovations.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
This is a programme consisting of four projects directed respectively towards cooperation, training of development teams, implementation of a special zootechnical project, and implementation of the E.E.C. directives in the Mezzogiorno area.

WATER MANAGEMENT
With this multidisciplinary course of the control of waters, FORMEZ is attempting to meet the growing demand for specialisation in this field. The theme is of particular importance for the Mezzogiorno area, which has an interest in the effective utilisation of a resource that is of marked importance for agriculture and industry; namely, water. The project is intended for managers and technical staff operating in this field, whether in the public or the private sector, and who indicate the need for information on the scientific basis of the systems and of their application to the actual problems of the hydrological resources.

SERVICES FOR FOREIGN OPERATORS
In agreement with IAS and the Finance Authorities for the southern area, FORMEZ ensures training services adapted to the specific requirements of each economic undertaking for operators from other countries who invest in the Mezzogiorno. In particular, FORMEZ assists in recruitment of the top and middle management teams, and in financing or modernising them. It assists operators, including foreign ones, in relation to the social and cultural environment and in establishing contacts with the authorities. It offers research services, and access to programmes of technological innovation and transfer. FORMEZ also carries out exchange programmes, comprising study and training activities, with scientific and cultural organisations and with the Public Administration in other countries, particularly those belonging to the European area.

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- Naval credit for the construction, transformation of ships and the purchase of craft already in operation abroad.
- Tourist credit for hotel trade.
- At market rates
- Financing for building, modernization or enlargements of industrial plants and for stock supplies.
- Subsidies and exchange discounts.
- Opening of credits.
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- towards a rational use of the resources and towards a correct and harmonious development of the territory;
- towards the training and updating of businessmen, directors and middle management in the different economic sectors;
- for the development of cooperatives and associations active in commerce, artisan crafts, industry and fishing, in order to encourage programmes of activities aiming at the acquisition of new experiences and data which are useful in renewing management policies of associative companies;
- towards an increase of research and experimentation to practical ends, in collaboration with university institutes and other organisations;
- to back artisan, commercial and industrial firms in the province, through the granting of contributions in favour of credit associations;
- for the protection of local artistic handicraft;
- for a better efficiency of the distributive and productive structures;
- for the enhancement of the typical products of the province.

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The Institute is equipped with a vast library offering economic publications and specialised magazines both Italian and foreign, as well as a modern and very spacious conference room, with simultaneous translation facilities (4 languages) and closed circuit television. The creation of a Commercial Exchange and of a Goods Laboratory is being studied.

THE MEZZOGIORNO

There is something of an optical illusion about the south. From the north, the gap between the two parts of Italy is sharply defined—clear, and undoubtedly, the principal element in the national scene.

Southerners are seen to be inferior. The south is a weight around the country's neck. Devotees of absurd passions with an atmosphere ill conducive to work, yet a ready absorber of state funds aimed at developing the prospects of labour.

The cities are chaotic and dirty. The politics are feudal and the shores are lapped by a Mediterranean which saps the will while diluting any aspiration to

become an industrialized democracy of the West. From the south, the northerners are not particularly superior, or cleaner, or very different, except that in the past they have been consistently favoured by policy as much as by history and their luck is still holding.

Italy can be looked at in at least two ways. From the north it is a part of Western Europe which gradually drops away into the Mediterranean becoming less European as it goes. Or it can be seen to be rooted in the Mediterranean and flowing from the top of a mountain which it breaks into bloom by means of contact with the Alps.

The north 'looks down' on the south

Its central spine can be regarded as the Apennines in northern Europe.

From the north, the south of the valley of the Po which strikes out across Roman Empire required physical protection and they looked first to the French and then to the Germans to provide it. As a result, the peninsula looked down, rather than down, to this generalization such as the move towards the Crusades, and pilgrims who marched down the peninsula and across to the Adriatic coast to take ship for Palestine.

Then there were the commercial routes to the Levant which brought exotic goods to medieval Europe.

Europe for the first time in the resistance movement, the south was regarded as the Community now is opening up. The Italian industry is now admitted to have been a mistake. If no other evidence was there, it is that of the massive shift northward of millions of southern Italians who went to seek a higher level of living in the northern industrial cities.

They were supported in their upward climb by the view accepted by most politicians that Italy's future was with the democratic, industrialized society of Western and Northern Europe. The south was something to escape from; and in many cases, with good reason, because the prospects of development and of dignified work were few, and they remained few.

The only advice a disinterested observer could have given to a poor southerner in the years of industrial expansion was to go north. While the going was good, it was no longer a flight northward does not solve the problems of the southerner and the developing world. The sense of frustration is recent, from President Pertini who introduced to reduce to class a country with this vital geographical situation and the responsibilities which go with it.

In this sense, the south is a country with a frontier. It is a frontier, the southern question. The southern question is a creature of history, which the economic and sociologists can endlessly argue.

Peter Nichols

Ross Davies

Sicily, despite its isolation attracts investors

Of the nine regions of the Mezzogiorno, Sicily is second to Sardinia as the most isolated geographically, politically and economically.

Yet Sicily ranks fourth out of the nine after Lazio, Campania and Apulia, in terms of foreign investment. According to the Institute for Assistance in the Development of Southern Italy (IASM) Sicily has 23 foreign-owned plants employing nearly 6,000 people. However, the

trast is great between Sicily and the top two regions in the foreign investment table. Lazio (95 plants, 30,000 jobs) and Campania (81 plants, 25,000 jobs).

Just one Italian company, the Milan-based chemical company, Montedison, employs 6,300 in one Sicilian plant, the petrochemical refinery at Priolo between Catania and Syracuse—more than the total labour force of all foreign-owned businesses on the island.

As IASM points out in a survey of foreign investment in the Mezzogiorno: "The islands of Sicily and Sardinia are too remote for most purposes". Some companies, however, have been drawn there by the presence of a unique raw material, by an exclusively local market or by the initiative of a local partner.

The same IASM survey reported this reason for Sicily's foreign investment: "The telephone is dreadful, the mail hopeless, and the airport at Catania is very bad. The electricity is very problematical and it took forever to get building permits. Any improvement in the bureaucracy would be welcome".

Sicilians like to think of themselves as Sicilians first and Italians only as a very poor second. After the way they sought to break away from Rome and even put out feelers to the United States seeking to become a state of the union. Yet the Sicilian economy is only that of Italy writ small.

The West pours dollars into Rome to stave off the economic collapse that would bring the communists to power. Rome in turn adds some of those dollars to the list of funnels into Palermo in an effort to minimize the islanders' secessionist sentiments.

The result is that per capita income is two thirds that of the Italian average. Unemployment is higher than in any other region, in so far as Italian figures, in so far as Italian labour statistics mean any-

thing, show that the Sicilian average is less than that of the rest of the country. Unemployment is growing, but some Sicilians who have lost jobs on the mainland and elsewhere in Western Europe, are returning home to sit out the recession.

Work is for skilled people on the island still, and the local businessman or foreign investor who cannot raise some cash for his venture on the island is unfortunate indeed.

Over the centuries the Sicilians have been invaded by—and yet in time have assimilated—the Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Normans and Spanish. The two biggest investor countries in Sicily today are the Americans and the Dutch. The Libyans are now moving on from Malta and establishing a presence in the off-shore island of Pantelleria and in Palermo.

Mainland Italian investors have learnt, the Americans and the Dutch are learning, and the Libyans will learn, that the Sicilians like to do things their own way, and usually succeed in that aim.

Thus, although Sicily has no established industrial tradition, the island and its people are eager to benefit from foreign investment with their own terms. Workers need training for the most simple industrial processes, but are quicker and keener to learn than those of the mainland north.

On the other hand, the food in the centres has to be good, there is labour trouble. Heaven help the factory management that sails too close to the wind on pollution control. Above all, the management team requires the presence of many Sicilians, since only they can manage fully to understand other Sicilians.

Workers cannot be bossed about, although they have an innate desire to please. An inordinate amount of time has to be spent in getting along not only with the regional parliament in Palermo (which has no time for Rome) but with the local council (which may be, or may not be, as well as with environmental-conscious local residents' associations).

Here as elsewhere in Italy, there are restrictions on hiring and firing. It is difficult to shed labour, and in recruiting workers it is usually necessary to hire somebody on the unemployment list rather than to poach somebody already in

the line of work for which he is required.

"The future of Sicily will be agricultural again", was told in Syracuse by Senator Enzo Sicotra, who is chairman of the Union of Commerce of Sicily. "In the 1950s it was thought here and in Rome that Sicily's future would lie with industry. Now we are going back to agriculture and to tourism, which will be a great resource for the island."

To see how investment was being channelled into the Sicilian economy, Dr. Giuseppe Biondo, deputy director-general of the Regional Institute for the Financing of Industry in Sicily (IRFIS), was established in 1959, the agency through which medium-sized capital loans are made for the construction or expansion of plant, the purchase or replacement of machinery, or for helping cooperatives and tourist projects.

The institute, he continued, also favoured the development of small industries, particularly those not usually highly developed in Sicily. However, there was a backing for some, but not for all, of the cases. Sicily had been the case for petrochemicals in the early 1960s.

Dr. Biondo, himself a native of the island, employed a typically Sicilian rural simile. He said the quarry in which the island now finds itself with the development of which, he said, was to have been that of a case. The rocks were to have been the jet-sucking up the oil from the tankers. The trunk was to have been the refining of the crude oil, the branches, the production of the petrochemicals, the manufacture of finished goods from these chemicals. Unfortunately, icy blasts from Opec had stunted the tree and the island has yet to progress beyond the production of the basic chemicals.

Dr. Giovanni Consagra, head of the Palermo office of the IASM, said: "Today small to medium-sized industries are of great importance because they are the only ones that are healthy".

Sicilian economy is that of the little man who stopped his scooter-powered van outside a Palermo restaurant late one night.

The restaurateur, a part of the tourist

FINAM FINANZIARIA AGRICOLA DEL MEZZOGIORNO SPA

Capitale Sociale Lit. 38.000.000.000. (Int. Vers.)

A Company for agricultural financing in southern Italy with the joint stock participation of: Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, Banco di Napoli, Banca Commerciale Italiana, Banco Nazionale dell'Agricoltura, Banco di Santo Spirito, Banco di Sicilia, Banco di Sardegna, Banca della Provincia di Napoli, Consorzio Nazionale per il Credito Agrario di Miglioramento, Banca Popolare dell'Abruzzo, Istituto di Credito delle Casse Rurali ed Artigiane and INSUD S.p.A.

FINAM encourages and sponsors the development and exploitation of southern Italy's agriculture by undertaking capital risk sharing in cooperatives and their consortiums, and in small and medium companies of agricultural entrepreneurs, including companies performing a first transformation of agricultural foodstuffs products. In particular, FINAM operates in the sphere of special projects established under the programme of extraordinary interventions in southern Italy related to the agricultural development (forests, zootechny, cultivation of citrus fruits, irrigation, trading, research) and in regional development projects in favour of cooperatives and consortiums, or companies where it has a capital participation (with a forbiddance on control participations, except in cases of joint participation with agencies of agricultural development or other bodies subject to regional control). FINAM provides a

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Fime Trading is a public company established in 1978 to promote and develop the export of Southern Italian products as well as the import of raw materials and semi-finished goods. Fime Trading shareholders are: 10 first-rate Italian banks and credit institutions for 1/3

ENI, the Italian state-owned oil Agency, for 1/3

FIME, a public finance company for the development of Southern Italy, for 1/3.

It is known that most of the Southern Italian enterprises are of small-medium dimensions. These enterprises taken as a whole have an appreciable production capacity and good technological know-how that allows for market competitive products. However, lack in financial capacity and international experience prevent them from playing an important and continuous role in the world market.

Fime Trading has been constituted with the purpose of overcoming these limits.

Fime trading intent is to play the role of a Purchasing Centre for Southern Italy goods and for the foreign markets, thus developing a two-way trade to and from Southern Italy. To accomplish this, Fime Trading covers a wide range of activities:

- market analysis and product engineering
- export of southern Italian products
- providing for the southern enterprises commercial financial and technical support; and
- ensuring to the foreign buyers the products quality, the standards required.

the delivery terms and, in general, the full compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract

- import of raw materials, and semi-finished goods for the Southern processing industry

- financial assistance to both buyers and suppliers by means of soft loans, factoring, confirming and forfaiting operations. In this respect Fime Trading as a public company has access to all credit facilities provided by the Italian export credit institutions.

- establishment and operation of sales and distribution systems, warehouses, depots in Italy and abroad

- general contractorship in large integrated projects so to offer and manage "packages" and turn-key projects

Fime Trading covers all the range of the productive sectors of Southern Italy and mainly:

- machinery infrastructures and services for agricultural development
- machinery and equipment for wood-working industry
- furniture manufacturing
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Transmed: the great opportunity

The 1,553-mile Transmed 12,360-million-cu-metres of Italian gas can claim to be the world's largest gas pipeline, originating at Hassi Messagret in Algeria, from where it will run to Sicily, and then to the Italian mainland. The pipeline, which will offer an unparalleled opportunity to speed economic development in the Mezzogiorno, is a masterpiece of engineering and a major step towards the unification of the Italian peninsula.

The Government has been under fire from many quarters for its handling of the Transmed project. The project has been criticised for its cost, its timing, and its potential impact on the environment. However, supporters argue that the project will bring much-needed investment to the south and create thousands of jobs.

The project has been a source of controversy since its inception. Critics claim that the pipeline will divert resources away from other important infrastructure projects. They also worry about the potential for leaks and the impact on local communities.

Despite the criticism, the project has gained significant momentum. The Italian government has committed itself to completing the pipeline as quickly as possible. They believe that the benefits to the south will far outweigh the costs.

The pipeline is expected to be completed by 1985. Once operational, it will provide a steady supply of gas to the south, helping to diversify the economy and improve living standards. It is seen as a key to the development of the Mezzogiorno.

Greece, though Italian experts doubt if such a project is economic. Whatever quantities are sold elsewhere in Europe, the nub of the problem for Italy remains how to consume the gas in the Mezzogiorno. The late Senator Piero Sottani, the Sicilian regional Premier, said in conversation last year that he had one third of the Italian quota earmarked for Sicily, but admitted that the island's economy was unable to absorb it and most of the gas would have temporarily to be used for electricity power stations pending the development of local industry.

Signor Mattarella was one of the younger generation of Christian Democrats, aware that the old methods of power and of managing the economy required change. A few weeks later he was murdered, presumably by the Mafia.

The debate on government unpreparedness for Transmed will doubtless continue some of the unsettled aspects were indicated when Signor Paolo Sarotti, a trade union leader on the right wing of the Catholic Confederation, CISL, recently complained of the absence of overall policies about how

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Impact of the Montedison Group

The Montedison Group, a petrochemicals complex at which is petrochemicals, is the largest and the world's Priolo, between Catania and Syracuse. The Montedison experience at Priolo demonstrates reasonably well the impact of Montedison and big business on the Mezzogiorno in general and, it must be said, the other way around.

By 1977, according to the economic impact of the Priolo plant had been to drive up per capita income in Syracuse province to nearly that of the national average and to a leading position in Sicily.

The workforce, which had no industrial tradition, needed training, quick to learn, if rather more emotional. However, the plant began to diminish the number of workers, as there were new troubles, this time outside the plant.

Perhaps the most visible sign of these is a patch of thickets at Priolo. This was the site of a new refinery plant, a co-operation between Montedison and Britain's ICI. It was abandoned 18 months ago

after protests from the people of Priolo that antineoplastic cancer. Montedison claims that this fear is unfounded. It has refused to its satisfaction by a study commissioned from Sicily's own university at Palermo.

The Priolo plant has not been operating in the most friendly of worlds for some time. The ever increasing price of crude oil has reduced the plant's output from 15 million to 8 million tons even though Montedison pays for part of its supplies not in cash but in kind.

Priolo supplies petrochemical and energy-based feedstocks not only to other plants in Sicily but through out the Montedison group, a major Italian exporter. Since the Brindisi fire, the group is having to import ethylene that could well be made in Sicily at Priolo.

Proximity to oil supplies and financial inducements brought Montedison to Sicily. However, the supply of crude is dwindling and the money Montedison has pumped into the local

economy does not always have the expected effect.

Syracuse, for example, is a small town, but it manages to support three new local papers and six television channels. All switch Priolo-like hawks.

"If a car goes on fire at the plant, there are headlines saying 'Blaze at Montedison plant', one Montedison executive said ruefully.

Another thing that is not working out is the hope that the new money would stimulate the establishment of local concerns to make finished articles from Montedison plastics and fibres.

The company itself has shown the way with a small plant at Lentini, north of Priolo, making plastic crates and other packaging for Sicily's fruit and vegetables.

Speaking not only for his own plant but for those of other big investors in Sicily, one Montedison man mused: "They are like cathedrals in a desert".

R. D.

Fair is a window on the world

The annual Levant Fair is 50 years old. But its mission, that of providing a window on the world, has remained the same. The fair was founded in 1930 when Italy's Fascist rulers sought by peaceful means to expand their influence to the shores of North Africa and the Middle East across the Mare Nostrum.

Now, after customers from the Mediterranean, the Arab and African countries, are more important than ever, the fair's political undertone has gone, and the fair, profiting from its historical role as a trading post with the Levant, has taken a good position to provide a bridge between the industrialised and developing worlds.

Among southern cities, it is smaller than Naples or Palermo, but sees itself as in no way behind them in business acumen. At the same time, it lacks the industrial hinterland of Italy's leading trade fairs, Milan and does not aim to usurp the latter's primacy.

The Levant Fair has a second role, that of providing a window on the world for the Mezzogiorno. The scope for export promotion by the Mezzogiorno can be seen from the fact that three quarters of Italy's exports come from the north.

The main fair is always held in September. This year's edition, which runs from September 12 to 22, was, as usual, opened by the Prime Minister, Signor Francesco Cossiga, and was visited by a number of government ministers.

There were 47 foreign countries, with official delegations from the Soviet Union, China, and the United States, which staged an exhibition on computers, word processing and equipment for the office.

The fairground, covering 300,000 sq metres of exhibition space, compared to the 115,000 sq metres of the 1930s, is bursting at the seams, as it lies on a promontory to the west of the city and cannot expand. About 5,200 firms were represented this year at the main fair, with another 3,690 at a series of simultaneous satellite exhibitions: Agriculture (mechanisation and industrial products for agriculture), Edilvillane (building), Sum (office equipment), Sala del Alimentazione (food and beverages), and the Salone dell'Automobile (automobile industry vehicles).

The fair is essentially a local initiative, being sponsored by the Bari Chamber

of Commerce, the municipal council, and the Bari provincial authority. Its president is the Mayor, Signor Stefano Romanazzi, a manufacturer of industrial vehicles.

Since its foundation the fair has passed through four phases: the first, under fascism, lasted from 1930 until the outbreak of war, as a result of which this year's was the forty-fourth and not the fiftieth. The second phase, from 1947 to 1956, was an outlet for Italy's post-war recovery. The third, from 1957 to 1968, was a period of consolidation. Since 1969 the fair has followed the direction taken by many international fairs, bringing a series of specialist satellite exhibitions.

There are now 22 exhibitions during the year, with pauses in July and August, and from November to January. This results in more rational use of the fair premises over a longer time, and provides better opportunities for negotiating deals away from the mass of the public.

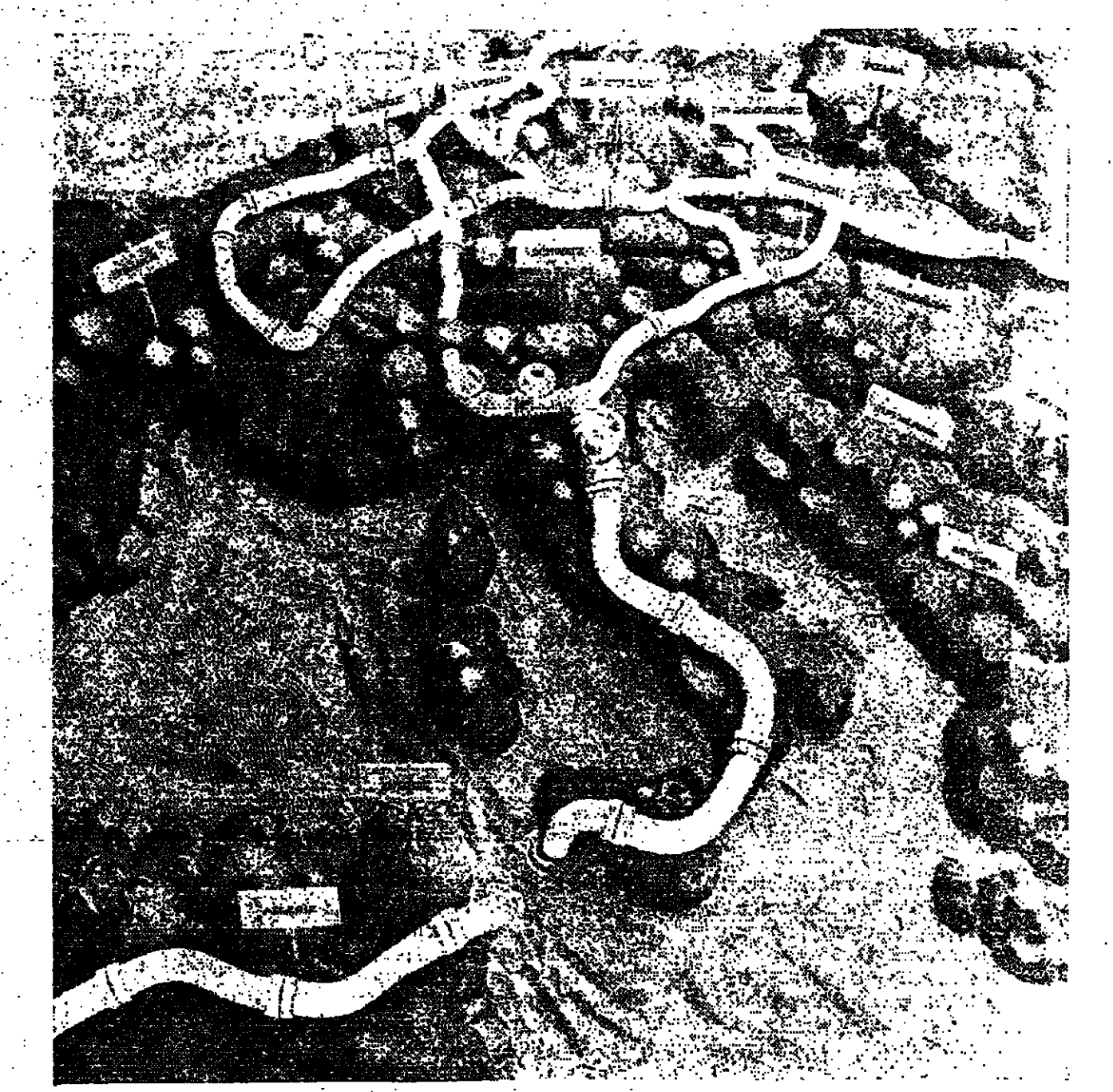
A few days after the main fair, the next item on the programme was a twice-yearly exhibition of fashion wear, the other edition being at the end of February. Many of the specialist exhibitions are in consumer goods and leisure activities—jewellery, camping, gardening, sports equipment, tourism and holidays, gifts, books, even an exhibition of contemporary art.

In March, Strong contingent of Middle East buyers usually come to Mobilvillane (furniture) in April and May and Dilmavillane (building materials) in February. For example, the former was attended this year by operators from Saudi Arabia, Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, North Yemen and from Cameroon, Gabon, Nigeria and Ghana, as well as from European countries.

Every second year, the fair acts as host at events of a technically more advanced nature. Next June it will stage an international exhibition on solar energy, shared alternately with Genoa. Similarly, after being in Milan this year, there will be an opportunity in that city in October 1981 to see the latest developments in a sector in which Italians believe their manufacturers are second to none—machinery for making pasta and confectionery.

J. E.

Natural gas soon to link two continents



SNAM is building a 2,500 kilometres intercontinental gasline, from Africa to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea.

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The Snam contract with Sonatrach (Algeria) will ensure an annual importation of 12 billion cubic metres of natural gas from Algeria, for a period of 25 years.

The gasline will cross Algeria, Tunisia, the Sicily Channel, Sicily, the Straits of

Messina and continental Italy up to Minerbio (Bologna).

This project implies a large financial and technical effort and requires the laying of several underwater stretchers.

The achievement of this project will actuate a strong economical exchange with Algeria, with consequent advantages for both countries.

SNAM has already linked Italy to Holland and to USSR with two gaslines, and imports LNG from Libya.

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The countryside around Rome is studded with Roman fortified towns, rustic hamlets, villas and castles, mountains and forests. Among the Alban hills are woods of chestnut, vineyards producing such wines as Colli Albani and Frascati, and medieval hill villages. There is a wealth of intimate hotels and rustic restaurants serving food and wine of a high standard.

This is the region where the Pope has his residence; Castelgandolfo where Italian noblemen enjoy their leisure and pleasure - and where now rich Roman businessmen have their second, or country, homes. It is an area of peace and tranquillity, the assignment of which comes over one's mind strongly to the visitor, especially to those who, like me, were coerced in some good hotels, and taken on a ceaseless round of hand-to-hand sales in city days.

The medieval hill town of Serravallo, north-east of

St Benedict restored to its former splendour, will be mandatory. We were shown round by Don Agostino, who was here until he was spiritedly banished back to his monastery since lived in the 1912 and remembers the soldiers marching the civilians, sheltering from the American bombing along the narrow, mined road to safety.

The beautifully-enclosed war cemeteries at Cassino and Anzio are reminders of the 30,000 Polish, British, Canadian and German dead of the Second World War. Also at Anzio, which has a long beach with several Roman remains, is the village which belonged to the Overgrown man with yellow hair, whose mosaic pictures can still be seen as one scrambles over it to get down to the beach. When in Anzio, make it a point to eat at Romolo's delizioso trattoria. You will cook the owner. Romolo will cook you. He insists that you try at least a little bit of all the fish fresh in that day.

There are many places on this riverside south of Rome, and a visit to the

Along the coast close to the Campagna borders. This is a beautiful town with attractive bay houses, some Roman remains, but a rather disappointing beach. A hotel would be recommended if you want to see the ruins of Caposelle, which once was famous for its surroundings and forable surroundings and really good food provided by the owners. Signor Bruno-di we enjoyed fresh lobster and a dish of mixed sea food, as well as homemade pasta and ham and bean soup.

A more expensive and very comfortable hotel is the Magna Circe at San Felice Circeo, about 50 km west of Fossin. It has some well-appointed bedrooms with large balconies overlooking the sea, a slight swimming pool and a marina for motor boats. The food is good and varied, but no better than the less expensive Caposelle. The Magna Circeo Park covers some 2,000 acres and contains the promontory of Circeo, four coastal lakes and 800 acres of forest. Here

and animals, including deer and bears (though I saw none).

Sperling's much chosen. Forest has tall, thin trees to resist the Saratrazaders. In the square men sit patiently over a cup of coffee, eyes glazing they study one of the explicitly sexual posters seen outside Soho.

From Formia all the round and from San Felice Circeo at certain times year. From the islands leave for the islands - Ponza, Palmaria and Ventotene, fortunately the sea we rough on the day we have visited them. I have to make a return because for me, this way have been so enlightening an interesting trip.

Further details may be obtained from CIT, 256 Crocigno, and the Italian State Office, 291 Regent's London W1.

Diana

Despite its high mountains, Puglia has nearly four million inhabitants, has something for everyone. Its stony and flat, its greatest altitudes are of the order of 3,000 to 4,000ft, reached at a corner of the Apennines in the west of Puglia. The most beautiful spur on the Italian boot that juts into the Adriatic.

There are beaches and coves which are still unspoilt compared with the north coast and beach the Gargano out of a Grimm's fairy tale, and the Trulli landscape south of Bari, as tidy as Tuscany of southern England.

The Trulli's whitewashed dwellings are unique in Italy and unfortunately are at risk of being commercialised as a tourist attraction in the main towns of Alberobello.

For lovers of blood sports, the shooting season is in full swing in the Gargano and surroundings can be made at local hotels, with a scale of prices for wild boar, roe deer, hare, pheasant and partridge.

For those who like cathedrals and castles in a region steeped in history, there is a higher far away for the classicist towns like Monopoli and Grottole. Recall the Magna Graecia of antiquity, and in villages between Lecce and Otranto is the Salento district, which is a Greek dialect is still spoken.

A long tradition of pilgrimage dates from the Crusades, embarking for the Holy Land. They would stop and pray at the shrine of Saint Michael on the spectacular hilltop of Monte Sant'Angelo in the Gargano. An alternative route lay through Bari, whose sailors in 1087 stole from Asia Minor the corpse of Saint Nicholas known to the seafarers as the patron saint of sailors and to children today as Santa Claus.

In modern times many go on from Monte Sant'Angelo to San Giovanni Rotondo, 16 miles away. The Capuchin Padre Pio, who for having the large modern hospital complex has been built with funds gathered in his name, was one of the most famous pilgrimages to Cassano are undertaken to visit the statue of his most famous son and one of Hollywood's early stars, in the town of Rudolfo (Rudolph) Valentino.

Architectural elegance, distinct from any other southern Italian town is offered by Lecce, where agricultural prosperity and enlightened patronage brought an explosion of luxurious baroque art in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. The town centre is a homogeneous work of art in warm, honey-coloured stone but for the intrusion in the main square of tasteless buildings from this century.

Streets in the centre of Lecce are, indeed, in all centres of Puglia towns; immaculately clean compared with Naples or Rome. Only in the old part of Bari do the women sweeping the streets outside their homes tell you of the work of the town's women, called "case snatchers", the heel of the Italian boots is distant not only for the British but, also, for many northern Italians. The number of hotel beds in the region has increased by 15 per cent since 1971 to 20,000 or so in 1971 to 38,311 at the beginning of this year, while a further 53,000 beds are available in tourist complexes, campsites, tents, motels and youth hostels. But the occupancy rate is not kept as high as in the north, at an average 5.78 per cent a year.

The region, under laws passed by its assembly in 1978 and 1979, makes it a "struttura" new facilities and improvements. But there has been a disappointing number of Italian daymakers staying in the 738,865 arrivals, 2,253,739 and 0.3 per cent respectively less than the year before. But they have been compensated by more foreign visitors, in hotels (occupancy up by 10.27 per cent) and in other places (up by no less than 11 per cent).

Most foreign tourists come from West Germany and France, with the Americans and the British taking fifth place. Charter tourists operate to Bari and Bagnoli airports. Signor Medea, coordinator of tourism for the region, estimates about 1,500 "Britons" each year in this way.

The regional Government has been so anxious to promote holidays by car, caravan, groups, and schemes to refund the motorway tolls long drive south. Medea says that buses in the region can obtain a pass for 400,000 lire (£200) to spend six nights or more in Puglia in the low and 200,000 lire in the high season.

The sums of money to give to the region has also given compensation, on a smaller scale, to individual motorists from West Germany and France. Regional authorities like to extend this to tourists from other European countries in Britain, but Signor Medea says their payment linked to the new petrol coupon system new scheme will first be devised.

John

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A VALID HOUSE OF LORDS

Among the few questions on which there was a widespread measure of agreement at Blackpool last week was that the House of Lords should be abolished. Whoever wins the internal battle within the party, there is now a very real danger that the election of a Labour Government will lead to single-chamber government in Britain. This would be a thoroughly undesirable step.

One chamber government is an encouragement to ill-considered government. It provides insufficient opportunity for the revision of legislation before it reaches the statute book, or for the discussion of issues not immediately related to legislation. A second chamber adds a necessary dimension to the processes of government and offers a safeguard against private legislation by which a party appears to hold office for a while.

But it is no longer realistic to hope to secure the future of the House of Lords simply by advancing the merits of a second chamber. If a future Labour Government is to be dissuaded from the intention to kill the upper House, it will have to be confronted by a chamber free of the objections that undermine the position of the Lords at the moment. That was the theme of the debate on the Lords at the Conservative Party conference yesterday. If the House of Lords is to be preserved then it must first be reformed.

There are three principal objections to the House of Lords in its present form. It is totally unelected. It is, of course, an illusion to suppose that only those who have been elected are capable of doing a good job in legislation. But the essence of parliamentary government is

that it is representative government, and a chamber that does not contain a single elected member cannot claim convincingly that it is representative. A second objection is that the House of Lords does contain an hereditary element. There is no need to meet at the contribution that the hereditary peerage has made throughout centuries of British history. But as an institution it represents the past. It is no longer, as it once was, a source of power and authority in British society. It does not therefore have any rightful place solely on its own account in the British legislature today.

The third objection to the present House of Lords is that there is an unlimited right of nomination to it. This not only opens the way to Mr. Benn's thousand new peers. It also means that the government of the day is in a position to tilt the balance of the House's composition to its own satisfaction, even when its purposes are less dramatic than the abolition of the second chamber. Even if this power is not used, the fact that it exists must undermine public confidence in the Lords.

How then can the House be reformed so as to eliminate these weaknesses? In his speech replying to the conference debate yesterday, Mr. Norman, St. John-Stevens, the leader of the House of Commons, was careful to avoid any commitment on the part of the Government, but he made it clear that he personally looked with favour on the proposals of the Conservative review committee, chaired by Lord Home, which reported two years ago.

This committee recommended a complicated scheme providing for a House that would be partly elected and partly nominated, with fifty hereditary peers

remaining as an interim measure. Mr. St. John-Stevens went out of his way yesterday to support the continuation of the hereditary component in the House. This would surely be a mistake. Not only would it make the scheme of reform too complicated to be readily appreciated—and simplicity is an important condition for public confidence in any system of representative government—but it would undermine the legitimacy of the reconstituted House. The hereditary element would make the second chamber a perpetual target for sniping.

It would be much better to have a House with an elected majority and a nominated minority, roughly of the proportions of two thirds to one third. If this arrangement were adopted, it would follow that the number of appointed members would have to be restricted. This could be done either by limiting the number who could be nominated in any one year or by ensuring that the proportions of nominated members should always accord with the balance of parties in the House of Commons.

An upper chamber composed of elected and nominated members could be compared with the old system of local government when there were elected majorities and a minority aldermen, who made a valuable contribution in terms of experience and continuity and who should never have been abolished. Finally, it would be necessary to provide that any further change in the role of either House of Parliament should require the consent of both. A new constitutional settlement along these lines would carry public confidence and be a guarantee of stability at a time when this may be badly needed.

THE DEMORALIZATION OF THE POLISH PARTY

It is going to take a long time or the effects of the Polish strikes to work their way through the political system. The process began in August when Mr. Jerek, then party secretary, tried to head off trouble by sacking a number of senior men, including Mr. Babuch, who had been Prime Minister for only a few months. At the same time he promoted two men whose advice he had earlier spurned, Mr. Stefan, Olzowski and Mr. Andrzej Grabski, with an apologetic reference to "these comrades who needed better the accumulation of various irregularities, who tried to counteract them and to whom we did not then listen".

This was not enough. Even if he had not been taken ill, he could not have long escaped blame for the failures of his own leadership. His turn came only slightly sooner than expected when he was replaced by Mr. Kania, who is now continuing the urge by removing many of Mr. Jerek's men from the Central Committee. And this is certainly a demoralizing move. The demoralization and confusion at all levels. It must now be a happy hunting ground for those who would like to pay off and ambitions to fulfil. There is no sense at this stage in trying to detect victory for any single faction or coalition.

In some ways the most intriguing development is the re-emergence of General Moczar, who led the anti-Semitic purges of 1968 and paved the way for Mr. Jerek's only to be allowed aside

once Mr. Jerek had consolidated his power. Since then General Moczar has used his job in the party control commission to gather files on the corruption which gradually spread through the upper ranks of Mr. Jerek's team. Posing now as the cleansing conscience of the party, he knows too much about too many people to be ignored.

For the moment, however, Mr. Kania seems to be gathering the reins of power into his hands. At a stormy meeting of the Central Committee over the weekend he delivered one of the frankest and most hard-hitting speeches ever to come from the mouth of a contemporary communist leader. He broadly accepted almost every criticism made by the opposition in recent years of the way the system has been functioning. He said that workers' criticism of the trade unions was justified, that their protest was "a mass workers' protest not against socialism but against violations of its principles"; not against people's power but against bad methods of government; not against the party but against errors in its policy; not a protest of paid employees but of a class which feels it is the ruler of the republic.

He lambasted failures in investment management, failures in agricultural policy and failure to ensure accurate reporting of the situation. "Often the facts were invented locally or within individual branches of industry," he said, "the style of government was characterized by arrogance and

a hostile attitude to criticism and a disregard of the concepts and opinions created outside the centres of leadership." He put forward a whole series of reforms, including: "the free election of party authorities"; and said the country must have an answer to its request for "a guarantee that the sicknesses and mistakes which gave birth to the present crisis will never again be repeated."

These are stirring words, and they will doubtless increase the "heated discussions" which he admits are taking place within the party as well as among the people. But in themselves they offer no guarantee that they will change Polish reality. The system has its own imperatives. The apparatus down to the middle and lower levels does not like being told that it has failed. Nor is it easily persuaded that it must make room for rival bodies or alternative channels of information. It will not be wholly reassured by Mr. Kania's argument that the creation of new trade unions means only "an organizational division" of an otherwise united union movement. They will be even more reluctant than Mr. Kania must surely be to give these unions the "constructive cooperation" he promises in public. What seems to face Mr. Kania, in fact, is the irresistible force of social pressure coming up against an immovable object in the shape of a system which demands a single source of power.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BROADCASTS

Now that the Welsh question has been settled, the glare of publicity has passed from the Broadcasting Bill which enters its committee stage in the Lords today. But the Welsh language and even the future of the fourth television channel are of secondary significance among the contents of the Bill in the eyes of most of the public. What worries people most about broadcasting (as witnessed by the thousands of letters received by the Aanan committee of 1977) is the accountability of the broadcasters to their audience.

Many feel, and with justice, that both the BBC and the IBA are dismissive, even arrogant, about complaints from the public. This is especially so in respect of unfair or inaccurate references to individuals and organizations. Partly because of the nature of the medium, but chiefly because of the attitude of those in control of the programmes, it is far harder to set back broadcast misrepresentation than it is to get a correction or a reply printed in any respectable newspaper.

The two broadcasting authorities have each set up a body to

hear such complaints, but these have never carried much conviction because they are subsidiaries of those they sit in judgment on. The Bill would replace them with a single statutory commission, able to require the authorities to publicize its findings as it sees fit. So long as its members are skilled in the assessment of evidence and familiar with the practical problems of broadcasting, this should greatly assist those who have been unfairly treated.

It will be no help to those whose complaints are more general. Lord Nugent of Guildford and Lord Halsbury have moved an amendment to the Bill which would extend the scope of the commission to include "indecency, foul language, violence and mockery of religion." The idea of a commission with wider powers may be superficially attractive, but it was firmly rejected by the Aanan committee, which recommended the creation of the commission. They felt that there was too great a difference between the quasi-judicial function that they envisaged and the role of adjudicating over what are to some extent matters of taste and certainty of

less definable judgment. In addition, it is odd to set a statutory body to oversee two others (the authorities), both already charged with statutory duties of the same kind.

Yet many feel that the authorities do not fulfil their duties, and that no effective way of bringing them to account exists. A commission empowered only to issue belated disapproving comments over the air would not be very effective either. A commission with punitive or executive powers would uncomfortably resemble a new monopoly, broadcasting authority on its own account. It is for the authorities to set their own houses in order. The main focus of concern is not so much profanity or indecency as violence, where the evidence of television's harmful influence on conduct is disturbingly strong. Sometimes the two channels give the impression that they are competing for viewers by bidding up the level of violence, unjustified either as art or as laws, and often at times when children may be watching. To justify this, the authorities must satisfy the public better that they are responsive to these fears as their statutory responsibility dictates.

Radioactive waste

From Mr. A. Calvert
It is with some concern that I read the intention of the Government to build a new radioactive waste disposal site in the North. The area may have the advantage of being a remote area, but it is surely the only factor in

favour of it being considered for such a project is unacceptable. I trust the application for permission will be unsuccessful in order to preclude this truly terrifying idea gaining any credibility. Yours faithfully, PHILIP CALVERT, 3 Ringwood Grove, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, October 3.

For such a project is unacceptable. I trust the application for permission will be unsuccessful in order to preclude this truly terrifying idea gaining any credibility. Yours faithfully, PHILIP CALVERT, 3 Ringwood Grove, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, October 3.

Why Mr Callaghan should go now

From Mr. William Hamilton, MP for Fife Central (Labour)
Sir, Contrary to Mr. Heffer (article, October 6), I did not find it a "privilege" at the Labour Party Conference to see decent hard working Members of Parliament like Will Rodgers, David Owen and Jack Ashton booed and hissed and slow-handclapped. It was no privilege to watch some Trade Union leaders being actually threatened with physical violence.

So far as the party leadership is concerned, over a long period now Mr. Callaghan has been humiliated and kicked in the teeth by National Executive Committee members and others. Now they are kicking his boots, urging him to stay on as leader—until the game is properly fixed. But if he stays on, Mr. Heffer himself has repeatedly said that he would oppose him. Why the change, Eric?

Mr. Callaghan will know better than most the purpose of these manoeuvres. He must not fall for them. He must not be allowed to fall for them. He should go now, quickly. The Parliamentary Labour Party must get on with its job of electing a Parliamentary Leader of its choice—just like other Labour Groups all over the land elect their own leaders. It would be intolerable if the party in Parliament had thrust on it a leader in whom it had no confidence.

The truth is, the Labour Party is in a turmoil because ever since the last election it has been engaged in torrents of double talk. No one has seriously considered in depth and objectively all the things that are wrong. For the last 18 months, the self-styled Left has been determined to rig things as to ensure their permanent accession to control of the party, and doing it all on the specious claim that all was designed to "democratize" the party. It's time all that humbug and hypocrisy ceased. It's getting very late in the day. Yours sincerely, W. W. HAMILTON, House of Commons, October 6.

From Professor G. L. Rogers
Sir, Mr. Vernon Bartlett (October 6) as usual puts his finger on the central point: The Labour Party's decision to have mandatory re-election of MPs is of the most profound constitutional significance. The Labour Party no longer believes in representative Parliamentary democracy. It wishes to replace the House of Commons by a legislative conference of delegates pledged to advance to carry out the instructions of the small group which selects them.

This may be the way Left-wing parties work on the Continent, but it is not the way we do things in Britain. Yours faithfully, G. L. ROGERS, Department of Physics, The University of Aston in Birmingham, October 6.

EEC expenditure cuts

From Mr. Ben Patterson, MEP for Kent West (Conservative)
Sir, Lewis Carter Jones (The Times, October 2) is right to be concerned about the EEC Council of Ministers' cuts in proposed non-agricultural expenditure. Fortunately this is one matter on which much of the final say rests, not with the Council, but with the European Parliament.

British MEPs of all parties have been urging the Commission to support the International Year of Disabled People in 1981 with a co-ordinated programme of projects. As the Member this year responsible for the Youth and Education section of the Budget, I myself will be seeking to amend the Community Budget to provide funds, more particularly for help to disabled children.

We should be able to do a lot more, however, with the support of national governments. I feel sure that the British Government will not let us down when the final Parliament-Council negotiations on the 1981 Budget take place. Yours sincerely, BEN PATTERSON, 11 Buckingham Street, WC2.

Golden age of drinking

From Mr. R. French
Sir, Alexander the Great may not have drunk excessively, but he certainly encouraged others to do so. The story of Alexander's great drinking competition deeply impressed subsequent generations and passed on to the modern world of "renewance Europe." Alexander, a prize man, many felt, many died. As William Harvey told the Royal College of Physicians in 1617, "The competitors drank unmixed wine (the drink of the true toper, as your correspondent observes) and 35 of them died at once; the winner survived for four days only; having consumed four congi, that is, according to Harvey, some 40 pints. It was clear to the renaissance doctors that the Golden Age had truly passed. These heroes of old, the 16th century anatomist Sylvius tells us, not only drank unmixed wine, but they had not only large stomachs and hard heads, but enormous lungs. It was also clear that degeneration of the human race had quickly set in: Cicero's son, although the most noted tippler of his age, some centuries later, was as feeble as a child. We can translate as "The Golden Age of drinking was a time when the human race was puny besides those of Alexander's times. This process of degeneration explained how it was that Milo of ancient Croton could carry a bull round the stadium on one hand, and then at once eat it, while Harvey's friend Wilkinson of Trinity College, Cambridge could only manage a "pie of ye spit". No doubt modern fellows of Trinity are more degenerate still. Yours etc, R. K. FRENCH, Clare Hall, October 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Viewing the dark side of Britain

From Mr. B. C. Brookes

Sir, In your leader "The dark side of Britain" (October 4), you rightly point to the decay of our national institutions as a cause of disturbing aspects of our present political life. But you omit to point to Parliament itself as the institution which most urgently needs to adapt itself to changing needs.

The "prudent Conservatives" to whom you address your leader should be aware that Mr. Benn's fervent advocacy of greater democracy in our politics. While they have the power to do so, they should introduce proportional representation for Parliamentary elections. Yours faithfully, B. C. BROOKES, 61 Ashott Gardens, N2, October 6.

From Mr. K. M. Kirk

Sir, The rebuke of your leader on Saturday prompts a question. Supposing that, at the next general election, the Labour Party were clearly to expound its present platform and to accept the authority and executive action taken to implement that platform? If you cannot give an immediate and unequivocal "Yes" to that question (and in the light of your leading article, the answer is in doubt), you are in no position to pontificate on where the danger to democracy lies. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, K. M. KIRK, 70 Townsland Court, Townsland Road, NW8, October 5.

From Mr. Michael Newman

Sir, So France and West Germany have achieved a rebirth and Britain needs similar leadership in exercise the left-wing demon which is destroying it. "The dark side of Britain" (October 4).

The relatives of the victims of the recent neo-Nazi outrages in Paris and Munich would, of course, be the first to agree! This is a cheap reply to a much cheaper editorial. Yours faithfully, M. D. NEWMAN, 30 Oak Village, NW5, October 4.

From Mr. C. A. F. Warner

Sir, Your leading article of October 4 makes a vital point when you say that "Mrs Thatcher's Britain is being exposed to economic discipline, but is not being asked for the rebirth which General de Gaulle asked of France".

Taxation law ruling

From Mr. D. C. Potter, QC
Sir, A news item on page 2 of The Times of today (October 6) refers to the decision of the Law Lords in the *Vestey* case in November, 1979, and to the report thereon in yesterday's *Sunday Times*.

The use of the emotive word "loophole" and the contrast between the letter of the law and its spirit could well cause a rush of prejudicial comment. May I therefore, having been concerned in the *Vestey* litigation, make one important point?

While the letter of taxation law is contained in the statutory language, the spirit can be found by reading *Hansard* which may report what statements Treasury Ministers made to the House of Commons when introducing the relevant statutory provisions. The Courts may not look at *Hansard*. However, journalists may; and anyone can spare himself the labour of turning up the relevant volumes of the debates by referring to the well-known text-book *Whitman and Wheatcroft on Income Tax*, the 2nd edition, at pages 849-850, where are statements made by the Minister in 1936 when the predecessor of the enactment that became section 412 of the Income Tax Act, 1952 (now Taxes Act, section 478) was introduced. One thing becomes abundantly clear from thus ascertaining

I am convinced that without that spiritual rebirth in the spirit of the nation, which means a return to God and to true religion, there can be no economic recovery either.

Happily a Prime Minister and a Government are not the only ones who have to make that call and give that lead. Let all Christian men and women do so "the utmost of their power" (as Her Majesty promised at her coronation). Let the church also make that call so strongly that none may be in a position to say that they did not hear.

Yours faithfully, C. A. F. WARNER, 51 Barnock Gardens, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, October 5.

From Mr. Norman Gear

Sir, After reading your editorial, "The dark side of Britain" (October 4), my own reaction was one of dismay, not at anything that occurred at Blackpool last week, but at the anti-left hysteria which seems to have seized the entire British press, with the natural exception of the *Morning Star*.

We have had the spectacle of the Press unanimously proclaiming that any political position one step to the left of Mrs. Shirley Williams was that of people who were malign, ignorant, deceived and even, as you suggested, insane. This is to dismiss a vast cornucopia of perfectly legitimate political thinking at least as profound and researched as anything on the right. It is to reject wholesale such political philosophers as Lukers, Gramsci, Marcuse, Sartre and Chomsky as well as to ignore the great English revolutionary tradition which comprises the seventeenth century Levellers and the Chartist as well as the vast army of working people who have fought throughout the centuries for dignity and freedom, not always with the support of middle-class "moderates".

To condemn the contemporary development of this tradition as a product of the "rancorous" material of the subconscious mind is to betray the very principles of learning and reason you frequently claim to embody.

I suggest that what we have witnessed during the conferences of the TUC and the Labour Party is the dark side of the British Press. Yours sincerely, NORMAN GEAR, 55 Caerleon Road, Dinas Powys, South Glamorgan, October 5.

the spirit of section 412. It is that the Law Lords in the *Vestey* case have interpreted the letter of the statute fully in accordance with its spirit.

In reality, the letter of the law departed from its spirit in the *Concorde* case decided by the Law Lords in 1948. Much of the reasoning in that case contradicted the spirit of the legislation as explained in *Hansard*. It is certainly not any member of the *Vestey* family who availed himself of the letter of the law and spurned its spirit. On the other hand, the Treasury and the Inland Revenue, who must have been aware in 1948 that the Law Lords had given a ruling in the *Concorde* case that contradicted the spirit of the legislation, did not go back to Parliament, as they might have done, in order to correct the letter of the law. Instead, they enforced an interpretation that led to results which have been condemned by one of the Law Lords, Lord Wilberforce, as "arbitrary, potentially unjust, and fundamentally unchristian." Surely anybody who cares for the rule of law must be glad that an interpretation of the letter of the law that clearly contradicts its spirit, and can be condemned in such language by an eminent Law Lord, has been reversed. Yours faithfully, D. C. POTTER, 4 Pump Court, Temple, EC4, October 6.

The Taylor committee of enquiry on school government recommended as much in its report "A New Partnership for Our Schools" and the legal requirement in the 1980 Education Act for parent representation on governing bodies (as was also the intention of the previous Labour Government's Education Bill) are in the same spirit. The Education Act is a late though nevertheless welcome realization, in part, of the Taylor committee's proposals.

Is not the projection of parents' views through involvement in the government of their own community's schools a more mature and constructive approach, both politically and educationally, than the opting out process supported by Professor Cox?

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL HARRISON, Chief Education Officer, City of Sheffield, Loophole Street, Sheffield, October 2.

Ice house at Leeds

From Lord Geoffrey Lloyd
Sir, Confirming Mr. Osmond's article (Midland Diary, September 23), the ice house at Leeds Castle depended largely on straw for insulation and was 20 feet deep. As at Hasford (letter, October 6), it was in use in the early years of the century and, indeed, up to the outbreak of the First World War. However, although the brick-work is considered very old, it is still in perfect condition.

Mr. Cooper, clerk of the works to the late Lady Baillie, who started work at Leeds Castle in 1912 at the age of 17, says that Mr. James (October 4) suggests that winters were harder in those days and ice on the lake of up to 5 inches thick "as fairly commonplace. Mr. Cooper says that the workmen hated the job of filling the ice house, the capacity of which is 4,500 cubic feet.

As a result of the interest aroused by your correspondence, it has been decided to show the ice house to some of the visitors to the castle,

Grasping the nettle of juvenile crime

From Mr. John Gittins

Sir, The hodge-podge of irrelevance in the Government's White Paper on crime and young people is worthy of the Labour Party Conference. By this I mean that it seems from the title rather than the content that its practical formulation is grossly impracticable, and that we, the public, who are vitally affected, will wonder (to echo Mr. Alan Fisher) "what the hell has been going on" in all these months of consultation and thought.

We have found that locking up doesn't work, so now we are going to have more of it for shorter periods. The "wider powers" to be given to the courts depend on a myth of diagnostically perceptive magistrates prescribing largely non-existent facilities. The rebellious young are to be tamed by a ritualistic demonstration that they are displeasing their spluttering elders. The problem is too serious for this kind of amateurish posturing. We are dealing with our most valuable asset—our young people—and since 1903, when the first signs of legislative insight into their problems appeared, we have consistently provided resources that are inadequate, particularly in quality, and have directed them at the wrong target.

The plain fact is that, once a delinquent pattern has been established in a youngster, all our experience shows that we are powerless to remove it, in the majority of cases, by short-term methods—and certainly not by coercion. The conclusion is irresistible: that the only effective way to deal with juvenile crime is to prevent it.

This requires intelligent, thorough and cooperative action at the first signs of trouble. It means selecting people of skill, imagination and persistence who will treat youngsters as individuals. These people exist, and in considerable numbers, among teachers, relatives, and the many community resources. It is comparatively easy to identify the children at risk. But instead of focusing sharply on them, assessing their situations in realistic detail, and mobilizing the intensive help that is their emergency, we label, separate and hope that some sort of friendly penal establishment will ultimately do the trick.

The business of prevention is not easy. It requires a degree of community and professional cooperation that is not yet in evidence. It requires rigorous leadership by small-scale experiment. What the Government is doing is to perpetuate exactly the opposite approach. It has never worked and it never will. Yours faithfully, JOHN GITTINS, 18 Station Road, Kington Park Foot, Newcastle upon Tyne, October 4.

Nuclear arms depots

From the Norwegian Ambassador
Sir, In his letter published on October 1, Mr. Dmitri Ardamatsky writes: "The US also has dumps of equipment and arms, including nuclear arms depots, in Norway and Denmark, and activity in this sphere has been intensified recently."

There are absolutely no nuclear arms depots in Norway (and Denmark), and in connection with the ongoing negotiation for storage in central Norway of heavy equipment for an American Brigade it has been stated categorically and officially that this will not include nuclear arms. Yours faithfully, FRITHJOF JACOBSEN, Royal Norwegian Embassy, 25 Belgrave Square, SW1, October 3.

The right to know

From the Director General of the Central Office of Information
Sir, There is something wrong in the logic of Peter Hennessy's article about the Government Information service (September 30). He wants administrators to take over the information role so that journalists can find out what is happening in what is described as "the most secretive administrative service in the world." Hardly a recipe for success, I suggest. The only quotes he can find to support his view are 33 years old. The fact is that the information service has done much to improve the flow of information to the media and is constantly working to break down unnecessary reticence.

Perhaps what Mr. Hennessy really wants is for civil servants to be disloyal to the Ministry they serve. If that is so I hope he will find that information officers and administrators alike will resist his blandishments. Yours sincerely, JOHN GROVES, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, SE1, October 2.

Melodic line

From Dr. A. C. Lynch
Sir, The London Diary (September 30) reports that British Rail, unlike its Chinese counterpart, does not provide music to celebrate the departure of its trains. But its predecessors did so. Samuel Smiles recorded that "though the usual stage-coach bugleman could not conveniently accompany the passengers, the trains were at first played upon by a band of fiddlers, who, in a lively tune performed by a trumpeter at the end of the platform; and this continued to be done at the Manchester Station until a comparatively recent date" (1857). And on the London to Greenwich line, a band of musicians in the garb of the Beef-eaters was stationed at the London end, and another band at Dapford. For cheapness's sake the Dapford band was shortly superseded by a large barrel-organ, which played in the passengers; but when the traffic became established, the barrel-organ, as well as the beef-eater band at the London end, were both discontinued. Yours faithfully, ARNOLD LYNCH, 8 Heath Drive, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, October 1.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Stock Markets

FT Ind 443.5 down 1.4
FT City 71.1 up 0.4

Sterling

\$2.5250 down 50 points
Index 15.5 unchanged

Dollar

Index 83.4 up 0.2
DM 1.8050 up 60 points

Gold

\$678.50 unchanged

Money

3 month sterling 15.5
3 month Euro 13.125
6 month Euro 12.1125

IN BRIEF

Arab nations agree on higher oil output

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to raise their oil production to 10 million barrels a day, according to the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al-Naba. The three nations, which together produce about 10 million barrels a day, had previously agreed to raise production to 9 million barrels a day.

Iran denies gold sales

The gold bullion price remained steady at \$678.50 an ounce in London yesterday after a sharp drop in the previous session. Iran has denied reports that it had sold 3.3 million ounces of gold on the London market.

Energy management

An energy minister, employed to reduce fuel consumption, has been appointed by the British government. Mr. David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, will be responsible for the new post.

Housebuilding slump

Builders started work on only 1,200 houses in August, down from 1,500 in the previous month. The slump is attributed to a combination of factors, including a shortage of materials and a lack of demand.

Shipyard decision

British shipbuilders have decided to close down their operations in the United States. The decision was made after a long period of negotiations with the American government.

Blue Circle renews bid

Blue Circle has renewed its bid for the Aramco oil field. The company has offered a new package of terms, including a higher price for the oil and a longer lease.

£1.5m freezer deal

A £1.5 million deal for the purchase of a new freezer has been agreed between a British company and a foreign supplier. The deal is part of a larger contract for the supply of foodstuffs.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 5.03 points down at 900.67. The S&P 500 index also fell, ending at 285.12.

Further decline in living standards with spending rate down sharply

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Living standards fell again slightly in the second quarter of the year as rising unemployment gnawed away at pay packets. A drop in real disposable income of 0.3 per cent came on top of a 1.6 per cent fall in the first quarter of the year.

This is the first time since 1975 that living standards have fallen in two successive quarters and the Government is recoiled at the fact that its plans for the economy mean that living standards will fall again in the third quarter.

Consumers reacted to their growing pessimism about the economic outlook by saving a higher share of their incomes. The savings rate rose to 35.2 per cent in the second quarter from 34.8 per cent in the first quarter.

This led to a 2.5 per cent drop in the volume of consumer spending in the second quarter, with a particularly sharp drop in spending on cars, drink and tobacco.

The figures, released by the Central Statistical Office, show a rise of 9 per cent in the profits of industrial and commercial companies between the second half of 1979 and the first half of 1980, a stock market appreciation of 10.5 per cent.

But this figure gives a misleading impression, because it treats interest payments by companies to banks as if they were profits, which they are not.

After allowing for these payments, it is found that profits fell between the second half of 1979 and the first half of 1980 in nominal terms.

Allowing for inflation, the drop was even greater, suggesting that the burden of adjustment has been falling most heavily on the company sector.

The rapid drop in the number of people with jobs is the main force driving living standards down. Between the

Moran board move to unseat former chief

By Catherine Gunn

The board of Christopher Moran Group, a Lloyd's broker and underwriting company, will move to unseat as a director Mr. Christopher Moran, its former managing director and the company's namesake, at an extraordinary meeting on October 3.

If the move is successful, it is probable that the four other directors will themselves resign. Mr. Moran has declined invitations to resign of his own accord, Viscount Hall of Clynny Valley, the chairman, a former chairman of the Post Office and the other three directors say they are taking this step now because it is becoming increasingly difficult for the group to keep business going within Lloyd's pending Mr. Moran's trial on charges brought in August of conspiracy to defraud members of certain Lloyd's underwriting syndicates. He is on bail at present.

He was subsequently stripped of his executive offices in the group by the rest of the board. He has maintained throughout that the charges against him are unfounded and that he is a victim of a conspiracy to defraud the group's members.

The group's accounts published yesterday have been qualified by auditors Neville Russell. In their opinion, the criminal charges against Mr. Moran, and the Lloyd's disciplinary proceedings involving Mr. Moran and two others could severely prejudice the group's business.

In particular they are unhappy about the £8.6m goodwill, included in the balance sheet, the £3.8m valuation of shares in the group, and the presentation of the accounts on a going concern basis.

The group's major profit earners, Christopher Moran & Co. and underwriter Harman Hedley & Agencies are also under investigation by Lloyd's. But the directors say they are not aware of any wrongdoing by the group's members.

The Government hopes that the group will now fall significantly below the rate of inflation, which would mean the living standards of those at work in the group would be brought down.

EEC ministers split on steel crisis

From Peter Norman, Luxembourg, Oct 7

The EEC Council of Ministers this evening began discussing the Commission's proposals to introduce production quotas in the European steel industry. The proposals, which were put forward by the Commission yesterday, are aimed at reducing steel production in the Community to match demand.

Mr. Otto Schleicher, state secretary at the economics ministry, who was representing West Germany at the meeting, was expected to argue that Bonn could not take a decision on such an important issue just two days after a general election.

German officials pointed out that the Commission's proposals had yet to be discussed in detail by the government and would not wish any domestic decision on the steel industry to be prejudged by the outcome of the election.

Although the European Commission and most EEC member states believe that urgent action must be taken to restore the balance of supply and demand in the steel market, the German Government was tonight preparing to argue that decisions could wait for another fortnight, until the election results were known.

He urged the Commission to accept subsequent downward adjustments in their quotas as well as paying fines.

The minister was understood to have urged a large enough restriction on output to take account of both the fall in demand and the current large stocks of steel in the EEC.

The exact level of the quotas at the heart of the Commission's proposals is due to be



Mr. Adam Butler: taking a tough line.

Eurofer calls emergency meeting on quotas

From Peter Hill, Madrid, Oct 7

Europe's leading steelmakers will discuss the EEC Commission's proposal to bring in emergency powers to restore discipline to the crisis-ridden steel market tomorrow.

The emergency meeting of Eurofer, the European steelmakers' cartel, was called against the background of the Commission's request for the Council of Ministers to approve the implementation of special provisions of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The measures, which will involve control of production, deliveries, and higher prices for imported steel, are likely to produce further labour cuts and short-time working.

Britain's steel industry has strongly advocated implementation of the crisis powers to halt the price war taking place throughout Europe.

While the Council of Ministers may decide against approving the measures to allow time for further discussions, the Commission and the steelmakers, there is a distinct feeling that firm action is required.

Later this week, the Eurofer members attending the annual conference of the International Iron and Steel Institute here will have talks in Brussels with Viscount Edmund Davignon, Industry Commissioner.

Tomorrow's meeting will prepare the ground for those discussions and will concentrate on the machinery to be set up to monitor the steel market.

It was the failure of the Commission to secure a voluntary agreement which prompted the recommendation to invoke the special powers, which will expose producers which flout the quota restrictions to heavy fines.

The speed with which the Commission has acted to prepare the ground and the machinery which will be necessary if the Ministers accept the recommendation has surprised steelmakers, most of whom support the need for firm action, although West Germany and Italy have been bitterly opposed.

The paper outlining the Commission's case, which is being considered by the Council of Ministers, will form the basis for tomorrow's talks. Its tone is one of regret and disappointment at the failure of the previous system of voluntary curbs, which will be effective from the beginning of next month but with production cutbacks of 15 per cent to be implemented this month.

The full effects of the decline in lifting prices on a selected but wide range of products by at least 4 per cent by the middle of next year, and as a result bringing price cutting to an end and providing a basis for restructuring of the industry.

Saudis seek wider US investment partnership

From Frank Vogt, US Economics Correspondent, Washington, Oct 7

Saudi Arabia plans to broaden its energy industry, open the country to foreign investment, and attract more US companies, according to a Saudi official. The official, who is a member of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, said that the country was looking for a wider partnership with the United States.

He said that Saudi Arabia needed the cooperation of foreign governments to ensure the economic expansion and diversification of the country. The minister made no mention of the recent clash between his government and the United States Treasury over representation for the Palestine Liberation Organization at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

The minister stressed that the United States and Saudi economies are now highly interdependent and relations between the two countries should be strengthened.

At the private meeting, the Saudi minister pointed out that Saudi crude oil was now trading at an annual rate of about \$15.00m, while Saudi Arabia's oil exports were worth \$50.00m. He added that American companies had won \$6.00m worth of contracts in Saudi Arabia, representing about one-third of total Saudi contracts written, and representing about 90 per cent of all United States contracts won in the Middle East.

Unfortunately for would-be investors, the Saudi stock exchange has suspended trading in American shares, pending inquiries into their extraordinary run from 42 cents to \$1.40 between September 11 and 30, and a series of optimistic comments about the Saudi oil industry.

The West Australian Corporate Affairs Commission is

Electricity chairman to resign

Continued from page 1

In April 1977, the understanding was that he would become chairman of the new, unified corporation.

"I regret that it has not been possible to do what I came down here to do," he said. "Having decided it is not going to happen, I decided to cut my losses." He said he hoped to return to private industry but had not tried to find a new job.

He agreed there were some common threads between his own decision and that of Sir William Barlow to resign from the chairmanship of the Post Office. Short-term political pressures made the lives of chairmen of nationalized industries more difficult than those of companies in the private sector.

He had never worried about these general pressures. The main reason for his resignation was the lack of legislation to do the job. "I was engaged to do it," he said.

He believed the reorganization of the electricity supply industry was crucial, and would happen in the next few years although he could not say how many that would be. "There is no general management of the industry. No other country runs its electricity industry this way."

He was quite sure the facts were such that some British government would have to make the change to a unified corporation.

In the meantime, under the present structure, the result would be that electricity prices would probably be higher than they need be, because the efficiency of the industry would not be as high as it could be.

At the local level, the necessary things would continue to be done, but overall future planning for the industry as a whole would not be done because there was no mechanism to do it. There was a basic need to integrate considerations of electricity generation, distribution, and sale.



Sir Francis Torrens yesterday: "I regret it has not been possible to do what I came to do."

Recovery in car output

By Edward Townsend

United Kingdom car production recovered last month after a disastrous August when short-time working at the main manufacturing plants contributed to a big decline in output.

September production, according to figures issued yesterday by the Department of Industry, was estimated at 57,000 compared with 49,000 in August and 60,000 in September, last year.

In the first six months of the year, 312,000 cars were produced, compared with 315,000 in the same period last year.



Record results in Centenary Year

Mrs J. M. Tyrrell, reports:

- * Increased market share and production efficiency have enabled the Group to achieve record profits in its Centenary Year.
- * Borrowing has been reduced significantly and a further £2 million invested in fixed assets.
- * High interest rates and a strong pound do not affect us to any great extent and demand for knitting yarns is being well maintained in the current year.

Summary of Results

Year ended 30th June	1980	1979
Turnover	22,987,814	21,355,003
Profit before tax	3,726,146	3,197,906
Profit after tax	2,416,210	2,551,665
Ordinary Dividend	584,858	471,938
Dividend Cover	4.1	5.4
Return on Shareholders' Funds	34.2%	35.2%
Earnings per Share (before tax)	31.05p	26.63p

Copies of the Annual Report, containing the Chairman's Statement in full, available from The Secretary, Sir David Limited, Bective Mills, Abertorphy, Wakefield WF3 2ND.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Amstrad 7p to 35p	Alko 25p to 45p
Anglo Am Corp 1p to 15p	Becken Hill 12p to 25p
Anglo Am Corp 1p to 15p	Managers-Ferg 12p to 25p
British Sugar 15p to 27p	Neel Box 12p to 25p
Campari Int 5p to 58p	MM Hlegs 15p to 28p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia 1.18	Canada 2.45
Belgium 22.00	Denmark 13.70
Canada 2.45	France 10.32
Denmark 13.70	Germany 4.47
France 10.32	Greece 105.00
Germany 4.47	Hong Kong 12.15
Greece 105.00	Italy 216.00
Hong Kong 12.15	Japan 223.00
Italy 216.00	Netherlands 4.45
Japan 223.00	
Netherlands 4.45	

Western Australian rush after prospectors strike it rich

Gold diggers make advances to Leonora

In the latest Australian gold rush at Leonora in Western Australia, an old Aboriginal prospector and his young white partner have struck a gold mine. The mine is estimated to be worth £500,000.

So says Cliffmex of Perth, the company which has just bought their claim, for £450,000.

Unfortunately for would-be investors, the Perth stock exchange has suspended trading in Cliffmex shares, pending inquiries into their extraordinary run from 42 cents to \$1.40 between September 11 and 30, and a series of optimistic comments about the Leonora gold prospect.

The West Australian Corporate Affairs Commission is

boon towns again for Western Australia, a state born in the Kalbarrie - Colgardie rushes of the late 1890s.

Some local promoters in the area are so enthusiastic about their gold prospects that they have already hired leading public relations men. One man who has done this is a business associate of Mr. Engelbrecht, Mr. Danny Hill, a 38-year-old Irishman who has already made many millions of his own.

Some of Mr. Hill's companies, including Conco, Geometa, Amber Gold, Falkner, Leichardt are all attracting interest from United States investors in particular with the help of Murphy Communications and Corporate Strategies, the New York-based public relations consultants.

Rising gold prices have meant

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Still waiting for a trend

Yesterday's banking figures for September certainly offer at least some grounds for optimism. Not the least encouraging aspect of the figures is, of course, the sharp decline in the rate of inflation.

On the face of it, the indicated rise of 5.0 to 5.2 per cent in sterling M3 is also encouraging. Indeed, it one allows for the effect of the increase in the bill of exchange, the underlying rise in sterling M3 should appear to be comfortably under 0.5 per cent.

Given that the bulk of the post-war adjustment in the banking system must now be over, the situation looks to be promising. But just how sure can one be? October, being the end of the quarter, interest rates are likely to be higher than in the previous quarter. The figures are likely to be somewhat higher than in the previous quarter. The figures are likely to be somewhat higher than in the previous quarter.

National income statistics for the second quarter of the year confirm that corporate profits rose in the January-June period compared with the previous six months. The increase is up at 8 per cent, or 6 per cent in the case of the manufacturing sector.

Bejam

The usual stockbroking advice about Bejam is to buy on weakness but it seldom develops. This year alone the shares have risen from 55p to 99p at one point, and on yesterday's figures for the year to end June they climbed up to 97p, where the yield of 3.3 per cent reflects the rating.

Progress is still virtually impossible to fault. In the first half-year pre-tax profits jumped by nearly 50 per cent to £4.1m on a sales gain of 37 per cent. Margins widened from 4.7 per cent to 5.1 per cent. For the full year profits are 37 per cent ahead at £8.2m, up a 33 per cent sales increase to £16.4m, with frozen food sales up 30 per cent to £14.2m. Margins held steady at 5 per cent.

Bejam's strength is in the south, which is still relatively unscathed by the recession. It is benefiting from a new generation of customers, buying fridges, freezers rather than the more expensive bulk freezers, and it says that customers trading down leaves margins unharmed. Competition from supermarkets is scanty, and the worst of the price war in groceries is over, leaving frozen foods with its traditional advantages.

There are no signs of the sales increase slowing down. This year, moreover, Bejam should get something back from recent acquisitions, and with restaurants and other activities going well, profits will rise again. Sites are hard to come by, but the group is spending £1.37m on seven supermarkets from B&I, and recession elsewhere in food could reveal further opportunities.

After getting the green light from the Monopolies Commission for its bid for Armistage Shanks only last week, Blue Circle Industries is making up for lost time. The new offer remains on the basis of a two-for-six share exchange, with the option for shareholders to take one BCI share and 30p cash for every six Armistage shares.

Thanks to the sharp rise in BCI shares since the reference price of 112p, the offer values Armistage at 112p or 135m, against the £100m bid announced last January.

So the Government's delay has cost BCI some £7m. And despite the current difficulties in the building materials sector BCI has not been so churlish as to try to revise the terms downwards. Clearly the presence of Ceram Investments, which controls 29 per cent of Armistage, must have something to do with that since the last thing BCI wants is an acrimonious battle with Ceram.

Originally Ceram was looking for 127c a share for its holding. But with the new offer set to go unconditional at 50 per cent, which BCI achieved last time round, it seems clear that the group will press ahead with or without the Lebedevs.

Other retailing interests, which include Aldridge in London, have done significantly better than, for example, House of Fraser, its trading profits are down by 62 per cent at £1.7m but this takes in an expected £2.2m loss from Wallis Fashion acquired last February.

The best performer has been Sears, William Hill betting chain. It made a remarkable recovery from last year's poor trading season and announced pre-tax profits of £6.4m. It now remains to be seen how it will fare in the second half of the year.

The engineering division was (textile machinery mainly) predictably hit by the recession. It lost £2.8m against losses of £777,000 last time, but in the second half of last year the losses were £5m so effectively there is an improving trend. Now that Pickering Blackburn has been disposed of, the division is set for break-even or a small loss in the second half.

Traditionally, the second half at Sears contributes two-thirds of profits. Christmas and January sales are all important. It is thus difficult to make any sensible forecast about the outcome.

On the assumption, though, that profits change little from last year's £92.8m, the shares at 46p would be on a fully taxed p/e ratio of 9.5 and a potential yield of around 7 per cent assuming a 10 per cent rise in dividend. At this level they look a sound if unexciting hold, unless, of course, Sears does something in the near future to rationalize its activities away from its present unglamorous conglomerate image.

Clifford Webb discusses far-reaching changes that accompanied the new car's development

Can the Metro save BL?

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Banking figures fail to provide inspiration

Despite an encouraging set of banking figures dealers reported a lack of follow-through in the market yesterday as prices drifted.

The halt to Monday's strong rally came around mid-morning as buyers nervous of the outcome decided to sit and wait. But much to the market's surprise, they failed to re-emerge after the announcement at 2.30 pm, which showed a marked slowdown in money supply and borrowings.

Equities, too, looked slightly weary at the close. Oils were depressed by the latest turn of events in the Middle East.

Dealers expressed disappointment at the lack of investment incentive with most blaming it on the decision by some investors to close their positions ahead of the new account.

In the event, the FT Index after starting the day 1.2 up, went on, to close 1.1 down at 483.3.

Leading industrial spent a

miserable day. Further speculation over the third quarter figures from ICI, due out in the afternoon, did little to help.

Property shares, a dull market recently, have come back into prominence on hopes of a return to "normality". But shares of British Land were less fortunate yesterday as a line of 7m, arranged by brokers Rouse & Peckham, went through the market with the price slipping 2p to 94p.

November sent the shares tumbling 5p to 334p. Glass followed 10p lighter at 230p, ahead of next week's figures, with falls of 1p to 2p.

In Beecham at 15p, Unilever at 48p, Courtauld at 58p, Dunlop at 78p and Bunnings at 207p.

Interim figures from Sears Holdings, which were above most expectations, were the only bright spot for stores with the shares rising 1p to 46p.

Meanwhile, 11p to 46p following recent favourable comment but Debenhams slipped 1p to 33p. Debenhams (London SW9), which reported earlier this week, held steady at 100p as did Empire Stores at 140p, reporting today.

Speculation was good for a 5p rise in J. H. Gwynne at 51p.

In foods bid speculation added another 15p to British Sugar at 270p, but Tate & Lyle

held steady at 148p after recent adverse comment. Bejam picked up 4p at 97p on acquisition news and Argyll Foods held steady at 70p on its rights issue, acquisition news and better than expected figures.

Satisfactory interim profits helped Capre Industries 4p to 110p with Wm Boulton advancing 3p to 133p after full-year figures. The market was also pleased with trading statements from Cradley Printing, 1p higher at 17p, and Holt Lloyd, 1p up at 74p. But James Finlay slipped 5p to 111p after an initial gain to 118p, while R. Cartwright eased 2p to 38p.

Recent trading profits added a further 5p to Campari at 58p, while Skitchley, reporting next month, fell 4p to 25p.

Dealing in Massey-Ferguson resumed, but the shares fell 10p to 255p.

Equity turnover on October 6 was £112.91m (16.185 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Metal Box, P. & O. D'f, BP, Plessey, Trafalgar House, RTZ, Plessey, Cons Gold, Barclays Bank, KCA, Int. BTR, New, British Home Stores, Rank, Tate & Lyle and ICI Gas.

Traded options: Dealers reported a lull in activity with local contracts dropping from 1,938 to 1,461. Lloyds headed the list on 401 contracts along with BP on 321 contracts.

Traditional options also had a quieter time with no puts or doubles recorded. But calls were made in Town and City and Nat Finance at 4p and Comex.

Suspended Credit Data plans £1.26m rights issue

By Philip Robinson

Credit Data, the credit information group whose shares were suspended four years ago and which predicts a loss for this year, is raising £1.26m via a rights issue and placing and has warned shareholders of the rights involved in any further investment in the company's shares.

Credit Data was a public company after its founder Mr. Paul Brooks reversed the company into British Debt Services in the Spring of 1976. The shares were suspended in May of that year with Mr. Brooks and his board owning 55 per cent.

Under the rights and placing scheme, underwritten by advisers Barclay's Merchant Bank, Britannia Arrow (Holdings), one of the major sub-underwriters, is likely to emerge as the largest single shareholder with 13.54 per cent of the placing, plus its proportion of the rights issue.

The Credit Data board will end up owning around 10 per cent and have been advised not to take up their rights.

Credit Data is increasing the share capital of 10p shares to 8m by placing 3.4m shares with institutions at 21p and offering 2.5m shares on the basis of a three-for-one rights issue at 21p.

Argyll plans £2m rights issue to buy Vestey subsidiary

By Rosemary Unsworth

Argyll Foods, formerly Louis C. Edwards of Manchester, has come to the market for the second time in a year for cash to fund its latest acquisition. It is buying part of the private empire of the Vestey family.

Mr. James Gulliver, the chairman and his board are calling for a one-for-one rights issue of 54p a share to raise £2.4m, of which £1.5m would be used to pay for the acquisition of 66 Fretter Eare stores owned by J. H. Dewhurst, a subsidiary of the Vestey's.

Mr. Gulliver, chairman of Argyll Foods, has also brought in interim results for the first quarter of 1980, showing a 15 per cent increase in profits.

The frozen food stores based in south east England, have a turnover of £17m, and will be integrated within Argyll's own frozen food operation, the Cordoba Bleeds Stores. This division has a turnover of about £10m, and the group will operate a total of 120 stores throughout the country.



Mr. James Gulliver, chairman of Argyll Foods.

Operating profits from a turnover of £17m, and will be integrated within Argyll's own frozen food operation, the Cordoba Bleeds Stores. This division has a turnover of about £10m, and the group will operate a total of 120 stores throughout the country.

Latest results

Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	per share	pence	date	total
0.81(0.009)	3.21(0.11)	0.51	3/1	2.25(0.63)
0.27(0.04)	10.5(4.8)	0.35	4/12	1.35(1.35)
0.75(0.09)	—	3.93(0.85)	2/1	—(11.2)
0.16(0.07)	2.32(1.99)	0.10(1.72)	26/11	—
0.27(0.05)	2.32(1.99)	0.10(1.72)	2/11	—
0.89(0.18)	6.23(6.18)	1.25(0.5)	4/11	—
1.44(1.1)	9.2(7.1)	1.51(1.3)	28/11	—
5.4(4.48)	8.5(6.7)	3.0(2.75)	5/1	5(7.5)
2.8(0.6)	2.8(0.6)	0.7(0.7)	—	3(3.8)
0.21(0.37)	2.7(7.3)	1.0(0.52)	27/11	—
0.16(0.07)	3.9(1.6)	1.5(1.5)	25/11	—
0.27(0.05)	2.32(1.99)	0.7(0.7)	—	2(2.0)
0.71(1.8)	2.49(6.18)	0.97(1.0)	—	—

net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are
gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax

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